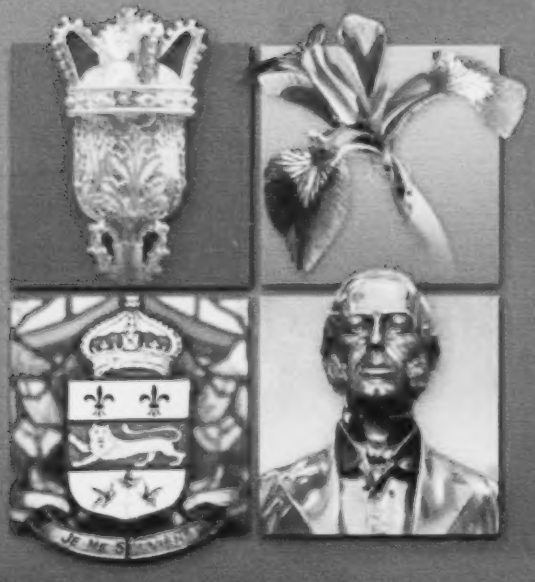
ACTIVITY REPORT

OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

2005 · 2006



ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
QUÉBEC

Mace
Borrowed from the British parliamentary ceremonial, the Mace symbolizes the authority of the National Assembly as well as that of its President. It is placed on the centre table of the Chamber and remains there as long as the President is at his seat.

Blue flag
This flower was named the official emblematic flower of Québec in autumn 1999 following the passage of the Act respecting the flag and emblems of Québec.

Former coat of arms of Québec
Section of the glass canopy adorning the entrance to the *Le Parlementaire* restaurant. This provincial coat of arms was in effect from 1868 to 1939.

Bust of Pierre-Joseph-Olivier Chauveau (1820-1890)
Man of letters and bibliophile, Chauveau was the first Premier of Québec, in office from 1867 to 1873.

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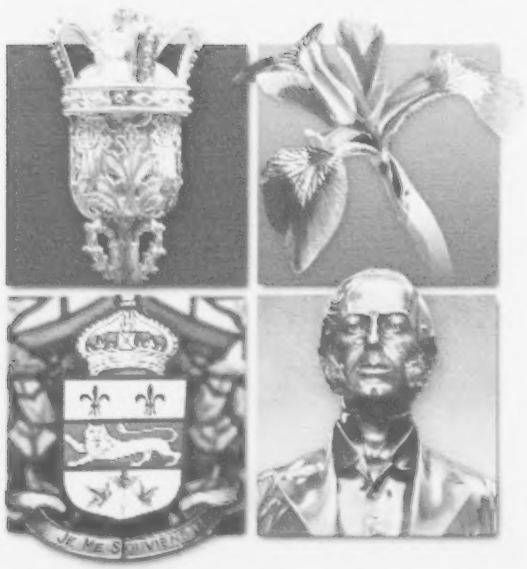

This publication was accomplished with the collaboration of the executive personnel and staff from all administrative branches of the National Assembly. Unless otherwise indicated, the data provided in this report concerns the activities of the National Assembly from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006.

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Highlights 2005-2006

NEW SESSION

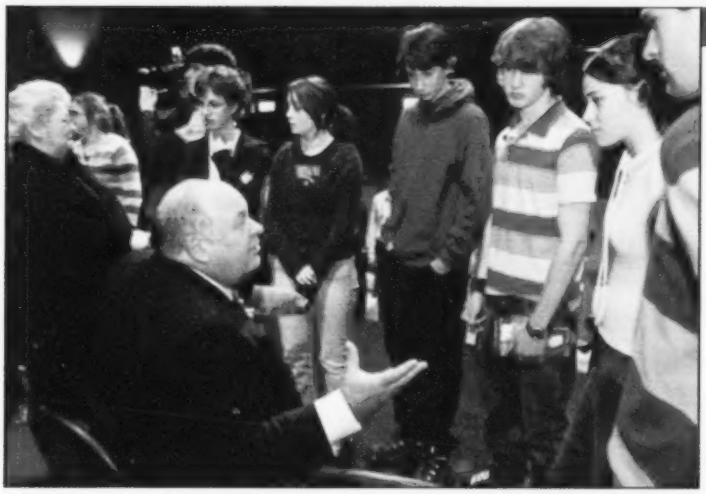
The Members of the National Assembly welcomed the Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable Lise Thibault, for the opening of the Second Session of the Thirty-seventh Legislature, on Tuesday, 14 March 2006.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTION ACT (SCEA)

The Select Committee on the Election Act was established by the National Assembly in June 2005 for the purpose of examining various matters relating to the voting procedure, the holding of elections and measures promoting the representation of the regions, women, youth, ethnocultural minorities and Native people. For the first time in the history of the Assembly's parliamentary proceedings, a citizens' committee was created to assist the Committee members in carrying out their mandate.

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE CONCERNING THE RELIGIOUS HERITAGE

The Member for Shefford, Mr. Bernard Brodeur, and the Member for Mercier, Mr. Daniel Turp, during the public consultations on the religious heritage. The Committee on Culture held a general consultation in seven cities of Québec.



PRESIDENT'S TOUR

During winter 2006, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, conducted a tour of 14 high schools. His visit enabled over 5000 students to have a better understanding of the role of the National Assembly, its history and achievements.

EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE (ERC)

The National Assembly is an international associated member of the Council of State Governments (CSG) and of its Eastern chapter, the Eastern Regional Conference (ERC). In January 2006, William Cusano, the First Vice-President of the National Assembly was appointed Vice-Chairman of the ERC. It is the first time that a Member outside of the United States holds this prestigious office.

Preface

I am pleased to present to you the *Activity Report of the National Assembly of Québec for 2005-2006*. Several events have marked the parliamentary year of our institution. First and foremost, let us mention the opening of the Second Session of the 37th Legislature on Tuesday, 14 March 2006. It is during this first sitting that the Assembly welcomed the two new Members who were elected in the by-elections held on 12 December 2005, in the electoral divisions of Outremont and Verchères.

In the course of the last year, two parliamentary committees held general consultations in several regions of Québec with respect to the religious heritage issue and the reform of the Election Act. Moreover, they aroused much interest among the population of Québec. This type of consultation had not taken place in 20 years.

The National Assembly continued its analysis of the parliamentary reform proposals tabled in 2004-2005. Several elements were examined by the Standing Subcommittee on Parliamentary Reform, more particularly the parliamentary calendar and schedule, the follow-up to petitions, and citizen participation to the committee proceedings via videoconferencing or on-line consultations.

Furthermore, I had the pleasure of conducting, for a third consecutive year, a tour of Québec high schools in order to better acquaint our young people with the role of the National Assembly. This tour enabled me to share my passion of politics with them, but also to make them discover the thousand and one aspects of our parliamentary life.

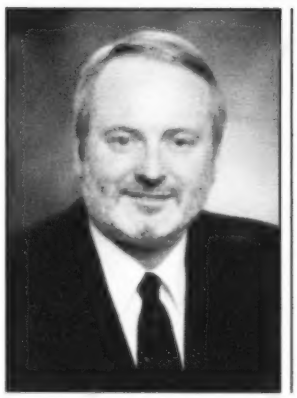
As regards interparliamentary and international relations in 2005-2006, the activities were numerous and fruitful. With respect to the parliamentary francophonie, a member of our Assembly represented the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF) at the 33rd Session of the General Conference of UNESCO in Paris, in October 2005. Incidentally, it is on this occasion that the conference members adopted the Preliminary Draft Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The National Assembly also welcomed the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, the Right Honourable George Reid, and a delegation of Scottish parliamentarians to mark Tartan Day.

I hope that reading this Report will enable you to discover and appreciate the abundant wealth of our parliamentary world.

The President of the National Assembly,

Michel Bissonnet

Foreword



I am happy to join the President in providing you with an overview of the numerous achievements of the parliamentarians and the administrative personnel in 2005-2006. This document will enable you to discover several aspects of our institution, whether concerning parliamentary work, citizen-oriented activities, diplomacy, the heritage or the administration.

Firstly, I would like to emphasize that parliamentary activities during the past year were abundant. The coordination of two travelling parliamentary committees required the sustained efforts of the personnel of Assembly. On the basis of the results obtained, these consultations were tremendously successful. In total, 102 persons and organizations were heard during the public consultations on the religious heritage, which were held in autumn 2005 in seven cities of Québec. For its part, the Select Committee on the Election Act went above all expectations, as 361 submissions were received during the general consultation. Over 300 persons and organizations were able to be heard during the public hearings, held between the months of January and March 2006 in 16 cities of Québec.

The National Assembly took another step on the environmental scene by launching, in autumn 2005, an important awareness campaign entitled *Pour l'avenir, je récupère!* (*For the future, I'm recycling*). With an earnest desire to further contribute to the conservation of Québec's natural resources, the institution has resolutely committed itself to recycling.

I therefore invite you to read this Activity Report, which will be a valuable guide in reaching a clearer understanding of the operation of our institution, whose role is paramount within our democratic society.

The Secretary General,

François Côté

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ITS MISSION

The National Assembly of Québec constitutes the foundation of the legislative power. It is composed of the Members elected by the population of Québec in each of the 125 electoral divisions. The responsibility of debating and passing bills and the budget lies with the Members. They also have the role of supervising the actions of the Government, particularly during Oral Questions and Answers and during the consideration of the Government's estimates of expenditure, and of discussing matters of public interest.

The duration of the collective mandate of these Members, which is called a «legislature», is provided for in the Constitution and cannot exceed five years.

The National Assembly and the Lieutenant-Governor form the Parliament of Québec. The Parliament of Québec assumes all the powers conferred on the Legislature of Québec (*An Act respecting the National Assembly*).

OPENING SITTING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 37th LEGISLATURE

On 10 March 2006, as notified by the Executive Council, the Lieutenant-Governor prorogued the First Session of the Thirty-seventh Legislature and summoned the National Assembly for the opening of the Second Session of the Thirty-seventh Legislature, on Tuesday, 14 March 2006, at 2.00 o'clock p.m.

The Members of the Assembly welcomed the Lieutenant-Governor, the Honourable Lise Thibault. The speech by the Lieutenant-Governor was followed by the opening speech delivered by the Premier, in which he announced the legislative intentions of his Government and the programme he intended to submit to the Assembly in the course of the new session.

A SESSION is a period of time that elapses between the summoning of the National Assembly and its prorogation. A session is officially open only after the delivery of the Lieutenant-Governor's speech; the Lieutenant-Governor takes the President's Chair on this occasion. The Standing Orders do not provide for any time limit with regard to this speech.

THE THREE POWERS OF THE QUÉBEC STATE

LEGISLATIVE POWER	EXECUTIVE POWER	JUDICIAL POWER
Examines, discusses, amends and passes laws.	Determines policies to guide the actions of the State.	Interprets the laws passed by the legislative power.
Supervises the action of the executive power. Discusses matters of public interest.	Administers and controls the State in accordance with the laws passed by the legislative power.	Decides whether a citizen or a group has acted in accordance with the law.
↓	↓	↓
Parliament	**Government**	**Courts**

The role of the Member

The primary activity of the Member is his participation in the legislative process. As a **legislator**, he examines, analyzes and votes on bills at the National Assembly. This role is carried out in several stages, both in the Assembly and in the standing committees.

Furthermore, as the **controller** of the Government's activities, the Member disposes of several methods to scrutinize the actions of the Government. It should be mentioned, among other methods, the interrogation of Ministers on topics of current interest during Oral Question Period, as well as the examination of the activities and management of ministries in committee. He plays a more active part during public hearings in parliamentary committee with regard to the main societal issues.

He also exercises the role of **intermediary** between his constituents and the public administration. The Member represents the constituents of his electoral division. He defends the interests of his fellow citizens and explains their needs to the Government machinery.

THE MEMBERS OF THE 37th LEGISLATURE

The by-elections held on 12 December 2005

A by-election is held in an electoral division to fill a vacancy arising from the resignation or death of a Member or stemming from a judicial ruling. Where the seat of a Member becomes vacant, a Government order instituting the holding of a by-election must be addressed to the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec not later than six months after it becomes vacant.

On 6 June 2005, Mrs. Louise Harel, the Member for Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, was appointed Leader of the Official Opposition by the Parti Québécois caucus members

Following the resignation of four Members in 2005-2006, by-elections were held on 12 December 2005 in the electoral divisions of Outremont and Verchères. These by-elections were called in pursuance of a Government order issued on 8 November 2005. The two remaining by-elections will be held during the year 2006.

On 20 December 2005, the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec transmitted to the Secretary General of the Assembly the list of the candidates declared elected in the following electoral divisions:

Outremont
Raymond Bachand
(QLP)

Verchères
Stéphane Bergeron
(PQ)

Resignations

Four Members resigned in 2005-2006. They are:

Yves Séguin
(QLP)
Outremont

First elected:
on 2 December 1985

Date of resignation:
on 25 May 2005

At time of resignation:
Member

Bernard Landry
(PQ)
Verchères

First elected:
on 15 November 1976

Date of resignation:
on 6 June 2005

At time of resignation:
Leader of the Official Opposition

André Boulerice
(PQ)
Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques

First elected:
on 2 December 1985

Date of resignation:
on 14 September 2005

At time of resignation:
vice-chairman of the
Committee on Culture

Pauline Marois
(PQ)
Taillon

First elected:
on 13 April 1981

Date of resignation:
on 20 March 2006

At time of resignation:
Official Opposition critic
on international relations

As at 31 March 2006, the Assembly was composed as follows:

	Number of seats
Québec Liberal Party (QLP)	**73**
Parti Québécois (PQ)	**44**
Action démocratique du Québec* (ADQ)	**5**
Independent Members	**1**
Vacant seats	**2**

*Independent Members. A parliamentary group is defined as follows: any group of not fewer than 12 Members returned to the Assembly by the same political party or that shall have received not less than 20 % of the popular vote in the most recent general election.

There are 16 former mayors among the current Members.

The Members of the Thirty-seventh Legislature have on average 8 years and 3 months of parliamentary experience. As at 31 March 2006, the average age of Members was 51 years and 7 months. The youngest Member was 26 years of age and the eldest, 70 years of age.

Who are our Members?

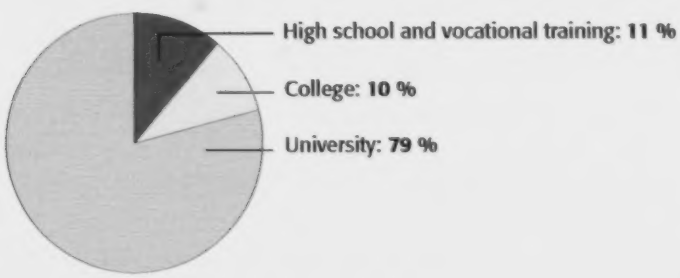
As at 31 March 2006, women, of whom there are 39, occupied 31.7 % of the seats in the National Assembly.

As a reflection of Québec's population, the Members of the National Assembly hail from various professional and academic backgrounds.

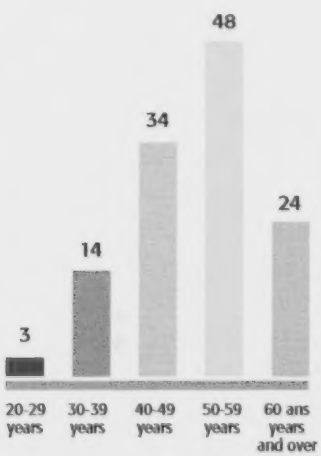
PRINCIPAL PROFESSIONAL OCCUPATIONS OF MEMBERS IN THE COURSE OF THEIR CAREER	
Professors	23 members
Administrators	22 members
Lawyers	16 members
Public servants	7 members

AMONG THE MOST PREVALENT UNIVERSITY DISCIPLINES ARE	
Law	22 members
Political science	13 members
Administration	9 members
Teaching	9 members

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND



DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERS PER AGE GROUP



THE

OF TH
AS A

JEAN CHAREST
Premier
Sherbrooke

JACQUES P. DUPUIS
Government House Leader
Saint Laurent

CLAUDE BÉCHARD
Deputy Government House Leader
Kamouraska-Témiscouata

MICHÈLE LAMQUIN-ÉTHIER
Deputy Government House Leader
Crémazie

NORMAN MACMILLAN
Chief Government Whip
Papineau

LUCIE CHARLEBOIS
Deputy Government Whip
Soulanges

NICOLE LORSELLE
Deputy Government Whip
Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne

DAVID WHISSELL
Cousin Chair
Argenteuil

VINCENT AUCLAIR
Vimont

MICHEL AUDET
Laporte

CLAUDE BACHAND
Anjou-Louis-Riel

RAYMOND BACHAND
Outremont

LISE BEAUCHAMP
Bourassa-Sauvé

LAURENCE S. BERGMAN
D'Arcy McGee

DANIEL BERNARD
Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue

RAYMOND BERNIER
Montmorency

KARL BLACKBURN
Roberval

YVAN BORDELEAU
Acadie

JULIE BOULET
Laviolette

BERNARD BRODEUR
Shefford

JACQUES CHAGNON
Westmount–Saint-Louis

NANCY CHAREST
Mégantic

ANDRÉ CHENAIL
Huntingdon

ROCH CHOLETTE
Hull

MAURICE CLERMONT
Mille-Îles

RUSSELL COPEMAN
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

PIERRE CORBEIL
Abitibi-Est

PHILIPPE COUILLARD
Mont-Royal

MICHELLE COURCHESNE
Fabre

MARGARET F. DELISLE
Jean-Talon

PIERRE DESCOTEAUX
Groulx

MICHEL DESPRÉS
Jean-Lesage

JEAN DUBUC
La Peltrie

JEAN-MARC FOURNIER
Châteauguay

ANDRÉ GABIAS
Iles-Bizard

MONIQUE GAGNON-TREMBLAY
Saint-François

FRANCINE GAUDET
Blackburn

FRANÇOISE GAUTHIER
Jacques-Cartier

HENRI-FRANÇOIS GAUTRIN
Verdun

SAM HAMAD
Louis-Hébert

FRANCE HAMEL
La Prairie

FATIMA HOUDA-PEPIN
La Pinière

YOLANDE JAMES
Mercier

MONIQUE JÉRÔME-FORGET
Marguerite-Bourgeoys

GEOFFREY KELLEY
Jacques-Cartier

RÉJEAN LAFRENIÈRE
Gatineau

CHARLOTTE L'ÉCUYER
Pontiac

DIANE LEGAULT
Chambly

LAURENT LESSARD
Frontenac

YVON MARCOUX
Vaudreuil

PIERRE MARSAN
Robert-Baldwin

ÉRIC R. MERCIER
Charlesbourg

PIERRE MOREAU
Marguerite-D'Youville

NORBERT MORIN
Montmagny-L'Islet

THOMAS J. MULCAIR
Chomedey

NATHALIE NORMANDEAU
Bonaventure

FRANÇOIS OUIMET
Marquette

ALAIN PAQUET
Laval-des-Rapides

JEAN-PIERRE PAQUIN
Saint-Jean

PIERRE PARADIS
Brome-Missisquoi

BENOÎT PELLETIER
Chapleau

SARAH PERREAULT
Charlevoix

PIERRE REID
Orford

JEAN ROUX
Berthier

JEAN-PIERRE SOUCY
Portneuf

CAROLE THÉBERGE
Lévis

LISE THÉRIAULT
Anjou

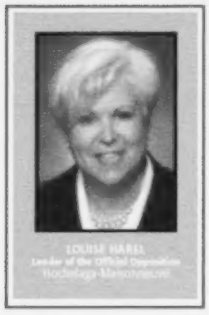
TONY TOMASSI
Lafontaine

YVON VALLIÈRES
Richmond

DOMINIQUE VIEN
Bellechasse

MEMBERS

E 37th LEGISLATURE
T 31 MARCH 2006


LOUISE HAREL
Leader of the Official Opposition
Rochelaga-Maisonneuve

MICHEL BISSONNET
President of the National Assembly
Jeanne-Mance–Viger

WILLIAM CUSANO
First Vice-President
Viau

DIANE LEBLANC
Second Vice-President
Bourassa-Sud

FRANÇOIS GENDRON
Third Vice-President
Abitibi-Ouest

DIANE LEMIEUX
Opposition House Leader
Bourget

STÉPHANE BÉDARD
Deputy Opposition House Leader
Chicoutimi

MICHEL BOURN
Chief Opposition Whip
Bécancour

JACQUES CÔTÉ
Deputy Opposition Whip
Dubuc

AGNÈS MALTAIS
Caucus Chair
Taschereau

MAXIME ARSENEAU
Îles-de-la-Madeleine

DENISE BEAUDOIN
Marabel

STÉPHANE BERGERON
Verchères

ROSAIRE BERTRAND
Charlevoix

CAMIL BOUCHARD
Vachon

CLAUDE BOUCHER
Johnson

ALEXANDRE BOURDEAU
Berthier

JOCELYNE CARON
Iberville

NOËLLA CHAMPAGNE
Champlain

JEAN-PIERRE CHARRONNEAU
Berthier

SOLANGE CHAREST
Rimouski

CLAUDE COUSINEAU
Bertrand

SERGE DESLÈRES
Beauharnois

LÉANDRE DION
Saint-Hyacinthe

RITA DIONNE-MARSOLAIS
Beauharnois

DANIELLE DOYER
Matapédia

MARJOLAIN DUFOUR
René-Lévesque

NICOLAS GIRARD
Groulx

NORMAND JUTRAS
Drummond

ELSIE LEFEBVRE
Laurier-Dorion

FRANÇOIS LEGAULT
Rousseau

RICHARD LEGENDRE
Blainville

NICOLE LÉGER
Pointe-aux-Trembles

GUY LELIÈVRE
Gaspé

MICHEL LETOURNEAU
Argenteuil

SYLVAIN PAGÉ
Labelle

LUCIE PAPINEAU
Prévost

CLAUDE PINARD
Saint-Maurice

LORRAINE RICHARD
Duplessis

HÉLÈNE ROBERT
Deux-Montagnes

SYLVAIN SIMARD
Richelieu

JEAN-CLAUDE ST-ANDRÉ
L'Assomption

LUC THÉRIAULT
Masson

STÉPHAN TREMBLAY
Lac-Saint-Jean

DANIEL TURP
Mercier

JONATHAN VALOIS
Joliette

CÉCILE VERMETTE
Marie-Victorin

MARIO DUMONT
Rivière-du-Loup

JANVIER GRONDIN
Bonaventure

SYLVAIN LÉGARÉ
Vanier

MARC PICARD
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière

SYLVIE ROY
Lotbinière

DANIEL BOUCHARD
Mégantic-Compton

THE SEATING PLAN OF THE ASSEMBLY AS AT 31 MARCH 2006

Parliamentary duties

President

He is elected among the Members and his duties are threefold: to chair the sittings of the Assembly while ensuring that the Standing Orders are observed and that the rights and privileges of the National Assembly and of its Members are protected; to oversee the services of the Assembly; to represent the Assembly in Québec and abroad, particularly in its relations with other Parliaments.

Vice-presidents

There are three vice-presidents, the first two of which are elected among the Members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the third, among the Members of the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition. They assist the President in his duties and enjoy the same prerogatives and the same authority as the latter when they replace him in his parliamentary duties.

Leader

A Member who is responsible for the parliamentary activity of his party

House leader

A Member who is responsible for establishing the parliamentary strategies of his group.

Deputy House leader

A Member who assists and replaces the House Leader in his duties.

Whip

A Member who is responsible for discipline within his group and who coordinates the activities of the Members in the Assembly, in committees, and within delegations.

Deputy Whip

A Member who assists and replaces the Whip in his duties.

Definitions

- **Parliamentary group forming the Government**

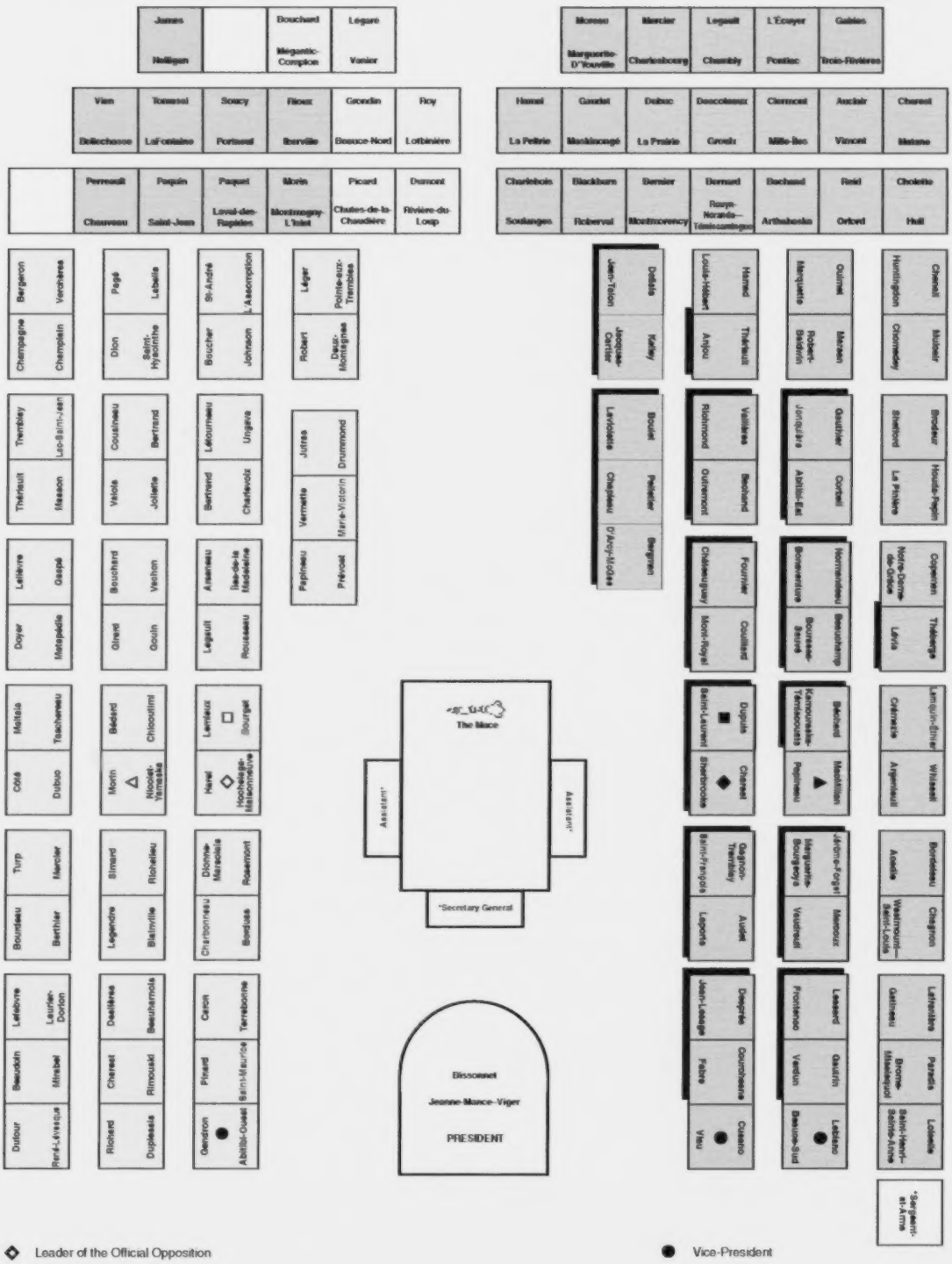
The group of Members whose party won the majority of seats in a general election. Their leader becomes the Premier, and he chooses, generally among the Members of this group, those who shall become Ministers.

- **Parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition**

The group of Members whose party won the second largest number of seats in a general election. The leader of this parliamentary group becomes the Leader of the Official Opposition.

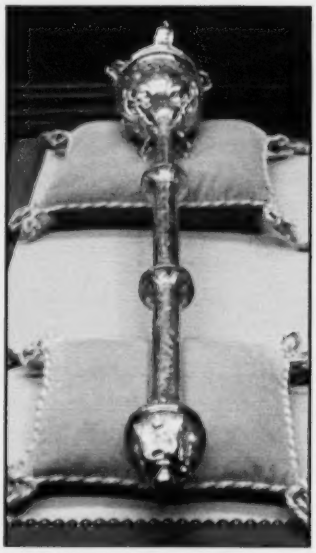
- **Independent Member**

A Member of Parliament who is not a member of a recognized political party under the Standing Orders of the National Assembly or who, during a term of office, leaves a group without joining another. An independent Member may join a parliamentary group at any time during a legislature.


The Mace
Assistant*
Assistant*
*Secretary General
Bissonnet
Jeanne-Mance–Viger
PRESIDENT
Leader of the Official Opposition
Opposition House Leader
Chief Opposition Whip
Other Members
Vice-President
Premier
Government House Leader
Chief Government Whip
Ministers
*Public Servants

The National Assembly and PARLIAMENTARY WORK

During their term of office, the Members are called upon to discuss a multitude of issues concerning the public affairs of Québec. Whether it be to express an opinion, an intention or to pass a bill, several methods are at their disposal in order to examine a question concerning a given societal issue and to fully take part in the parliamentary proceedings. The debates at the National Assembly and in the committees proceed according to a set of rules based on the British parliamentary system guaranteeing freedom of speech to Members and their legal authority over the business of the State.



The mace symbolizes the authority of the National Assembly and of its President.

SCHEDULE OF SITTINGS

The Standing Orders of the National Assembly establish a work calendar that is divided into two periods: from the second Tuesday in March until 23 June at the latest, and from the third Tuesday in October until 21 December at the latest. The Standing Orders also provide for «intensive» periods of work, beginning on 25 May and on 25 November, during which the Members also sit on Friday and the sitting hours are extended..

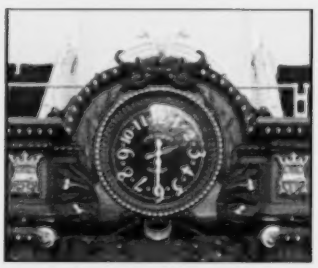
The standing committee sittings may take place all year long. However, none of these sittings may be held when the Routine Proceedings are underway in the National Assembly Chamber.

Schedule of Assembly sittings

Schedule	Ordinary session	Intensive session 25 May to 23 June / 25 Nov. to 21 Dec.
Monday	*	*
Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Friday		

** The Assembly sits on Monday on motion by the Government House Leader.*

Outside of the periods provided for in the Standing Orders, the Assembly, at the request of the Premier, may hold extraordinary sittings. This request is addressed to the President or, in his absence, to the Secretary General.



In the portal crown of the National Assembly Chamber, Cyrille Duquet installed the clock which regulates the schedule of the parliamentary debates.

Extraordinary sitting on 15 December 2005

At the request of the Premier, Mr. Jean Charest, the National Assembly was summoned to meet as a matter of urgency in an extraordinary sitting, on 15 December 2005, to proceed with the passage of Bill 142, An Act respecting conditions of employment in the public sector, and of Bill 124, Educational Childcare Act.

ASSESSMENT OF WORK AT THE ASSEMBLY

During 2005-2006, 78 sittings were held in the Assembly and 450 in committee. The following table provides a breakdown thereof:

	ASSEMBLY		COMMITTEES	
	Sittings	Hours	Sittings	Hours
April	12	50 h 13	39	101 h 36
May	14	41 h 37	66	254 h 12
June	12	73 h 38	64	144 h 06
July	0	0	0	0 h 00
August	0	0	7	37 h 08
September	0	0	26	108 h 16
October	6	34 h 09	35	98 h 36
November	15	81 h 41	67	193 h 15
December	9*	55 h 43	40	107 h 00
January	0	0	15	70 h 53
February	0	0	43	195 h 48
March	10	54 h 16	48	150 h 46
TOTAL	78	391 h 17	450	1461 h 36

* Including one extraordinary sitting on Thursday, 15 December 2005.

A sitting of the Assembly

A sitting of the Assembly is divided into two distinct periods: the Routine Proceedings and the Orders of the Day.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS	ORDERS OF THE DAY
The Routine Proceedings are composed of nine items of business set aside for information given by the Government to the National Assembly. One of the more interesting items is certainly Oral Questions and Answers, which takes place on every sitting day. The order in which the items of business under Routine Proceedings are taken is as follows: 1. Statements by Ministers 2. Introduction of billss 3. Tablings 4. Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations 5. Oral Questions and Answers 6. Deferred Divisions 7. Motions Without Notice 8. Notices of Proceedings in Committees 9. Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly	The Orders of the Day are devoted mainly to debates on bills at either of the stages of their consideration. It is also at this time that the National Assembly takes into consideration all other substantive motions for debate. The Orders of the Day are composed of five items of business that must be taken according to a predetermined order of priority: 1. Business Having Precedence 2. Urgent Debates 3. Debates on Reports from Committees 4. Other Business Standing on the Order Paper and Notices 5. Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

A FEW NUMBERS IN 2005-2006

- Three ministerial statements were made;
- Sixty-three bills were introduced until the prorogation of the first session, on 10 March 2006;
- Nine hundred and ninety-three documents were tabled in the Assembly, including annual reports of ministries and public bodies, committee reports and petitions.

A few explanations concerning the Routine Proceedings

Statements by Ministers - A Minister may make a statement to the Assembly on any subject he deems to be relevant, such as the announcement of a governmental policy or the Government's reaction to a given event.

Introduction of Bills - It is during Routine Proceedings that a bill may be introduced. Members do not discuss the content of the bill at this point but simply allow the text thereof to be submitted for consideration during the subsequent stages of the legislative process.

TABLING OF A PETITION

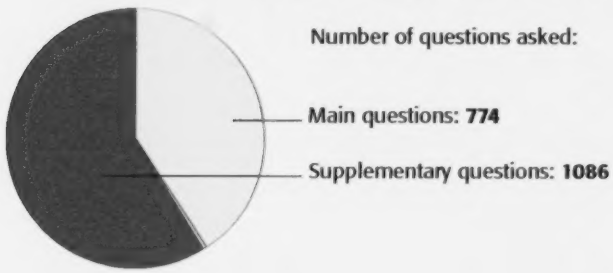
The right of citizens to present a petition to the National Assembly is a fundamental right that is codified in the *Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms*. Therefore, every person or association of persons may address a petition to the Assembly, through a Member chosen by the petitioner, for the redress of a situation deemed unfair.

In order to promote the proper conduct of the parliamentary proceedings, the President gave a directive, during the Routine Proceedings of 23 November 2005, to set at 250 the maximum number of words that the statement of facts may contain. Any petition that fails to comply with this guideline may be ruled out of order and not be granted permission to be tabled in the Assembly.

Oral Questions and Answers

This item of business is without a doubt the most familiar to citizens. During this 45-minute period, Members may question Ministers on matters of public interest, stemming from current events or urgent matters, within their competence or that of the Government.

57 hours were devoted to Oral Questions and Answers.



DEBATES UPON ADJOURNMENT

Any Member who is of the opinion that a matter he raised during oral question period has not been sufficiently discussed may request ***a debate upon adjournment***. He must give notice to the President of the matter he wishes to discuss no later than thirty minutes after the end of oral question period. In 2005-2006, 43 such debates were held, on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week, at the time appointed for the rising of the Assembly.

Not more than three debates may be held upon adjournment on any sitting day. The Member who raised the matter and the Minister responding thereto may each speak for up to five minutes and the Member may thereafter speak for up to two minutes in reply.

In 2005-2006, 222 motions without notice were carried, including the following:

- **The death of His Holiness Pope John Paul II**
- **The contribution of Aboriginal peoples to the development of Québec.**
- **The 65th anniversary of women obtaining the right to vote in Québec**

GLOSSARY

Motion

Procedural act by which a Member places some matter before the Assembly for its decision. He may thus ask the Assembly to carry out an action, order that an action be carried out or express an opinion on a given subject.

A few explanations concerning the Orders of the Day

With very few exceptions, the motions debated during this period are placed on the *Order Paper and Notices*. Notwithstanding Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition, it is generally the Government House Leader who indicates which item of business on the Order Paper will be discussed. However, this prerogative is limited by the order in which the items must be taken.

Business Having Precedence - As the name indicates, these items of business have precedence over all other matters, owing to their importance or urgency. The Opening Speech of the Session, delivered by the Premier, ranks first among the items of business having precedence, as well as the speeches by the Leaders of the parliamentary groups or their representatives, within the framework of the ensuing debate thereon. Among other business having precedence, the Budget Speech and want of confidence motions should also be mentioned.

Urgent debates - Any Member may request the holding of an urgent debate. The President authorizes the holding of such a debate if he deems that the request concerns a specific and important matter involving the responsibility of the Assembly and which cannot otherwise be discussed.

Debates on reports from committees - The reports from committees containing recommendations are placed on the Order Paper immediately after they have been tabled in the Assembly and must be taken into consideration within 15 days following this tabling.

The debates on Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition are held every Wednesday morning, excepting during the period of extended hours of meeting or when business having precedence is underway.

Le Répertoire législatif 2005 de l'Assemblée nationale, which constitutes a summary of the legislative work carried out in the past year, contains, among other information, a descriptive file for each public statute, a table of the amendments made to the public statutes, the list of public statutes per ministry or sector and an alphabetical index relating to the public statutes.

Each year, the National Assembly publishes an *Annual Statutes Compilation* in French (Les lois du Québec) and in English (Statutes of Québec). In addition to the text of each statute assented to, the compilation also contains the table of modifications made since 1977 to the Revised Statutes of Québec. It is a very useful documentary tool for Members, citizens and lawyers.

Other Business Standing on the *Order Paper and Notices* - It is during this period that the Assembly engages in the various stages of the consideration of a bill, more particularly the passage in principle, the clause-by-clause consideration in committee of the whole and the passage of the bill.

Only a Minister may introduce a bill having a financial impact. However, barring this exception, any Member has the right to introduce a bill at the National Assembly, and he may thereupon entrust its drafting to the legal and legislative services of the Assembly.

During the last year, the Assembly passed 63 bills, more specifically:

- 45 introduced by Ministers, 65 % of which were adopted unanimously;
- 2 introduced by Members, all of which were adopted unanimously;
- 16 private bills, all of which were adopted unanimously.

On average, 115 days elapsed between the introduction of these bills and their passage.

THE STANDING COMMITTEES

An important part of parliamentary work is not carried out in the Assembly itself, but in the committees, where Members exercise their duties as legislators and controllers of the Government's actions and the public administration. The committees are composed of a dozen Members and are responsible for the examination of any matter within their competence It is in committee that the population can be heard during public consultations on bills or on important societal issues. It is also in committee that the Members give detailed consideration to bills, closely examine the activities of the ministries and governmental agencies, study the budgetary estimates of the Government and may also choose, on their own initiative, to examine any other matter within their field of jurisdiction.

Calendar of standing committee sittings

Schedule	Ordinary session	Intensive session 25 May to 23 June / 25 Nov. to 21 Dec.
Monday	2 to 6 p.m	10 a.m.-1 p.m./3-6 p.m./8 p.m.-12 a.m.
Tuesday **Wednesday** **Thursday**	9.30 a.m.– 12.30 p.m 2-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-1 p.m 3-6 p.m 8 p.m.-12 a.m.
Friday	9.30 a.m.– 12.30 p.m.	10 a.m.-1 p.m./3-6 p.m./8 p.m.-12 a.m.

There are eleven standing parliamentary committees, nine of which are sector-based. Six of the sector-based committees are chaired by Members from the group forming the Government and three, by Members of the Official Opposition. The chairmanship of the Committee on Public Administration is set aside for a Member of the Official Opposition, and the President of the National Assembly chairs the Committee on the National Assembly.

COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Standing Orders of the National Assembly and the Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings; coordination of the proceedings of the other committees

Ex-officio members:

- The President of the Assembly
- The Vice-Presidents of the Assembly
- The House leaders and whips of the parliamentary groups
- The chairmen of the committees

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Accountability and examination of financial commitments

Members:

The chairman	Rita Dionne-Marsolais (Rosemont) PQ
The vice-chairman	Sarah Perreault (Chauveau) QLP

QLP

Yvan Bordeleau (Acadie)
Francine Gaudet (Maskinongé)
Alain Paquet (Laval-des-Rapides)
Jean-Pierre Paquin (Saint-Jean)
Jean Rioux (Iberville)

PQ

Stéphane Bergeron (Verchères)
Agnès Maltais (Taschereau)
Cécile Vermette (Marie-Victorin)

GLOSSARY

Chairman

A Member of one of the parliamentary groups, elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term, he organizes and chairs the proceedings of his committee. The chairman of the committee takes part in the debates and has the right to vote.

Vice-chairman

A Member of a parliamentary group other than that of the chairman, elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term, he assists the chairman in his duties and replaces him when necessary.

The documentary studies service provides support to the parliamentarians, particularly with respect to the standing committee mandates. It produces studies and analyses and provides assistance in the drafting of consultation papers and reports within the framework of orders of initiative and accountability. This service prepared 171 analysis papers in 2005-2006.)

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Executive Council, justice, public security, intergovernmental relations, the Constitution

Members:

The chairman — Sylvain Simard (Richelieu) PQ
The vice-chairman — Pierre Descoteaux (Groulx) QLP

QLP
Raymond Bernier (Montmorency)
Karl Blackburn (Roberval)
Nancy Charest (Matane)
Roch Cholette (Hull)
André Gabias (Trois-Rivières)
Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin)

PQ
Jacques Côté (Dubuc)
Daniel Turp (Mercier)
Jonathan Valois (Joliette)

ADQ
Mario Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

Finance, the budget, the public accounts, the public administration, the public service, and supply and services

Members:

The chairman — Sam Hamad (Louis-Hébert) QLP
The vice-chairman — Rosaire Bertrand (Charlevoix) PQ

QLP
Raymond Bernier (Montmorency)
Nancy Charest (Matane)
André Gabias (Trois-Rivières)
Pierre Moreau (Marguerite-D'Youville)
Alain Paquet (Laval-des-Rapides)
Tony Tomassi (LaFontaine)

PQ
Denise Beaudoin (Mirabel)
François Legault (Rousseau)
Guy Lelièvre (Gaspé)

ADQ
Marc Picard
(Chutes-de-la-Chaudière)

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Family, health, social and community services, status of women, income security

Members:

The chairman — Russell Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) QLP
The vice-chairman — Camil Bouchard (Vachon) PQ

QLP
Vincent Auclair (Vimont)
Yolande James (Nelligan)
Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)
Diane Legault (Chambly)
Jean-Pierre Paquin (Saint-Jean)
Pierre Reid (Orford)

PQ
Noëlla Champagne (Champlain)
Solange Charest (Rimouski)
Jean-Claude St-André (L'Assomption)

ADQ
Sylvie Roy (Lotbinière)

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Industry, trade, tourism, labour, science and technology, energy and resources, manpower

Members:

The chairman — Normand Jutras (Drummond) PQ
The vice-chairman — Claude Bachand (Arthabaska) QLP

QLP
Karl Blackburn (Roberval)
Pierre Descoteaux (Groulx)
France Hamel (La Peltrie)
Éric R. Mercier (Charlesbourg)
Norbert Morin (Montmagny-L'Islet)
Jean Rioux (Iberville)

PQ
Danielle Doyer (Matapédia)
Marjolain Dufour (René-Lévesque)
Lorraine Richard (Duplessis)

ADQ
Sylvain Légaré (Vanier)

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Agriculture, fisheries, food

Members:

The chairman — Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) QLP
The vice-chairman — Jean-Pierre Charbonneau (Borduas) PQ

QLP
Claude Bachand (Arthabaska)
Daniel Bernard (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue)
André Chenail (Huntingdon)
Jean-Pierre Soucy (Portneuf)
Dominique Vien (Bellechasse)

PQ
Léandre Dion (Saint-Hyacinthe)
Michel Morin (Nicolet-Yamaska)
Hélène Robert (Deux-Montagnes)

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Local communities, municipal planning, housing, recreation

Members:

The chairman — François Ouimet (Marquette) QLP
The vice-chairman — Richard Legendre (Blainville) PQ

QLP
Vincent Auclair (Vimont)
Yvan Bordeleau (Acadie)
Jean Dubuc (La Prairie)
France Hamel (La Peltrie)
Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière)
Tony Tomassi (LaFontaine)

PQ
Noëlla Champagne (Champlain)
Nicolas Girard (Gouin)
Sylvain Pagé (Labelle)

Independent
Daniel Bouchard (Mégantic-Compton)

Parliamentary control activities constitute 52 % of the work carried out in the standing committees, as the following table indicates:

Parliamentary control		
Government estimates of expenditure	192 h 27	13.2 %
Interpellations	22 h 35	1.5 %
Other orders of the Assembly	264 h 16	18.1 %
Delegated legislation	0 h 00	0 %
Surveillance of agencies	11 h 51	0.8 %
Examination of financial commitments	22 h 49	1.6 %
Accountability	55 h 33	3.8 %
Other orders under the Standing Orders	41 h 50	2.9 %
Orders of initiative	148 h 34	10.2 %
Legislative process		
Consideration of public bills	655 h 17	44.8 %
Consideration of private bills	11 h 52	0.8 %
General organization and election of the chairmen and vice-chairmen		
	31 h 25	2.1 %
Discussion on the parliamentary reform		
	3 h 07	0.2 %
TOTAL	1461 h 36	100 %

GLOSSARY

Temporary chairman

A Member appointed by the President of the Assembly to preside over the debates of a committee, at the request of a committee chairman or when the Assembly so directs in an order of reference. The Committee on the National Assembly approves a list of Members who may act in such capacity. The list of temporary chairmen was as follows as at 31 March 2006:

QLP

Lucie Charlebois (Soulanges)
Maurice Clermont (Mille-Îles)
Jean Dubuc (La Prairie)
France Hamel (La Peltrie)
Yolande James (Nelligan)
Michèle Lamquin-Éthier (Crémazie)
Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)
Éric R. Mercier (Charlesbourg)
Jean-Pierre Paquin (Saint-Jean)
Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi)
Pierre Reid (Orford)

PQ

Claude Boucher (Johnson)
Solange Charest (Rimouski)
Serge Deslières (Beauharnois)
Danielle Doyer (Matapédia)
Hélène Robert (Deux-Montagnes)
Cécile Vermette (Marie-Victorin)

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Education, vocational training, consumer protection

Members:

The chairman — Jacques Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis) QLP
The vice-chairman — Maxime Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) PQ

QLP
Vincent Audair (Vimont)
Yvan Bordeleau (Acadie)
Francine Gaudet (Maskinongé)
Éric R. Mercier (Charlesbourg)
Sarah Perreault (Chauveau)

PQ
Camil Bouchard (Vachon)
Claude Cousineau (Bertrand)
Elsie Lefebvre (Laurier-Dorion)

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE

Culture, communications, cultural communities, immigration, relations with the citizens

Members:

The chairman — Bernard Brodeur (Shefford) QLP
The vice-chairman — Daniel Turp (Mercier) PQ

QLP
Yolande James (Nelligan)
Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin)
Éric R. Mercier (Charlesbourg)
Pierre Moreau (Marguerite-D'Youville)
Dominique Vien (Bellechasse)

PQ
Jocelyne Caron (Terrebonne)
Nicole Léger (Pointe-aux-Trembles)
Lucie Papineau (Prévost)

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Transportation, public works, the environment, wildlife

Members:

The chairman — Claude Pinard (Saint-Maurice) PQ
The vice-chairman — Tony Tomassi (LaFontaine) QLP

QLP
Maurice Clermont (Mille-Îles)
Jean Dubuc (La Prairie)
Réjean Lafrenière (Gatineau)
Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)
Norbert Morin (Montmagny-L'Islet)
Jean-Pierre Soucy (Portneuf)

PQ
Serge Deslières (Beauharnois)
Luc Thériault (Masson)
Stéphan Tremblay (Lac-Saint-Jean)

ADQ
Janvier Grondin (Beauce-Nord)

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTION ACT

Exceptionally, the Assembly may appoint a Select Committee, which was the case in June 2005 in order to examine the draft bill replacing the Election Act. This is only the fourth Select Committee to be created since the parliamentary reform of 1984.

Members:

The chairman — **François Ouimet (Marquette) QLP**
The vice-chairman — **Sylvain Simard (Richelieu) PQ**

QLP
André Gabias (Trois-Rivières)
Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière)
Benoît Pelletier (Chapleau)
Sarah Perreault (Chauveau)

PQ
Lorraine Richard (Duplessis)
Luc Thériault (Masson)

ADQ
Marc Picard (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière)

Highlights: two travelling parliamentary committees

Two parliamentary committees met outside of the Parliament to hold public hearings within the framework of general consultations.

General consultation on the religious heritage

Churches and chapels, rectories, convents and monasteries, sanctuaries, Stations of the Cross and calvaries, stained-glass windows, sculptures, paintings, liturgical vestments and objects, archives, organs, cemeteries: all constitute elements of the religious heritage of Québec. In addition to this movable and immovable property are the traditions and knowledge detained, among other persons, by the religious community. The Committee on Culture is concerned with the future of this heritage, whether under the authority of the Catholic Church or of any other religious tradition.

This describes how the Committee views the issue that is at the core of its order of initiative on the religious heritage. Within the framework of the general consultation, the committee held public hearings in the following cities: Montréal, Gatineau, Sherbrooke, Saguenay, Québec, Rimouski and Trois-Rivières.

One hundred and two individuals and organizations were heard during these hearings. Furthermore, the Committee held special consultations to hear some experts in the matter. A total of 118 briefs were submitted, and some sixty opinions were received during the on-line consultation.

For the first time in 20 years, two parliamentary committees met outside of the Parliament to hold public hearings within the framework of general consultations.

Press conference marking the launching of the Select Commitee on the Election Act.

A citizens' committee was formed to assist the members of the Committee in carrying out its mandate. It is a first in the history of parliamentary proceedings at the National Assembly. The citizen members are:
1st row
Mrs. Carole Hadd (Shawinigan)
Mr. Mustapha Acharid (Laval)
Mrs. Martine Lafontaine (Baie-Comeau)
2nd row
Mr. Guillaume Boivin (Québec)
Mrs. Yohanna Loucheur (Gatineau)
Mr. Michel Morrisset (Baie-des-Sables)
Mrs. Mélanie Proulx (Sainte-Julie)
Mr. Charles Gaboury (Montréal).

GLOSSARY

Orders of initiative

On their own initiative, the committee members examine draft regulations and regulations, the orientation, activities and management of public agencies and any other matter of public interest.

Select Committee on the Election Act

The Select Committee on the Election Act was established by the National Assembly in June 2005 for the purpose of examining various matters relating to the voting procedure, the holding of elections and measures promoting the representation of the regions, women, youth, ethnocultural minorities and Native people. The Select Committee is composed of nine Members and is accompanied throughout its proceedings by a committee of eight citizens. The Select Committee invited the citizens to take part in its proceedings by publishing several notices in the newspapers. Moreover, it distributed in 3,340,000 Québec households an information pamphlet and published an information package, a consultation form and a study questionnaire.

The interest raised by this Select Committee surpassed all expectations, as the following data indicates: 361 briefs submitted during the general consultation, 1747 persons took part in the on-line consultation, 6200 paper copies of the information package were forwarded in French or English to the citizens who so requested it, 366 persons and organizations heard during the public hearings, 22 experts and representatives of the political parties heard during the special consultations.

The public hearings took place between the months of January and March 2006, in 16 cities of Québec. The final report of the Select Committee as well as the report from the members of the citizens' committee were tabled in spring 2006.

Mandates of the standing committees

The sector-based standing committees may carry out three types of mandates: orders of reference, orders of initiative, and statutory orders. The complete list of mandates carried out by the standing committees in 2005-2006 can be found in appendix.

1. Orders of initiative

In the course of 2005-2006, the committee members took the initiative to more closely examine the issues affecting various sectors of activity. The organization of these mandates requires several deliberative meetings during which the members prepare consultation or information papers, hear experts, plan public hearings and draft final reports containing recommendations addressed to the Government.

Other than the religious heritage, the following are the main subjects that were examined by the Members: food safety, the diversity of cultural expressions, the school success of Native people, the protection of investors in Québec, the Bureau d'évaluation médicale, highway safety, the impact of climatic warming in Northern Québec. Standing commit-

tees also took the initiative to examine the orientation, activities and management of the following public agencies: the Société d'habitation du Québec, the Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec, the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation, the Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial du Québec, La Financière agricole du Québec, Investissement Québec, the Kativik Environmental Quality Commission, the James Bay Environmental Quality Evaluating Committee and Review Committee.

List of papers published by the Secretariat of Committees

- The 14th and 15th reports on the accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies
- Select Committee on the Election Act: information package and summary, consultation form, study questionnaire, information pamphlet distributed in all Québec households
- Consultation paper on the religious heritage and on-line consultation form
- Report following the general consultation on the document entitled: «Towards a new social contract for equality between women and men»
- Examination of the orientation, activities and management of the Société d'habitation du Québec
- Interim report and final report on the diversity of cultural expressions
- Final report within the framework of the hearings held with the 19 head officers of universities
- Examination of the financial statements and of the activity report of the Institut de la statistique du Québec
- Consultation paper on highway safety in Québec and on-line consultation form
- Consultation paper on the protection of investors in Québec

2. Orders of reference

Clause-by-clause consideration of bills

The standing committees gave consideration to 63 bills of which a complete list can be found in appendix. Included therein are the Government bills, 16 private bills and 11 bills whose consideration had not been completed as at 31 March. It is interesting to note that, regarding the bills as a whole, 3475 sections were examined and 1046 amendments were adopted out of the 1158 amendment proposals made.

GLOSSARY

Orders of reference

At the request of the Assembly, the committees examine bills, the estimates of expenditure, and any other matter that may be referred to them.

GLOSSARY

General consultation

A general consultation is open to the population at large. Prior to its holding, a public notice must be published in selected newspapers, in the Québec Official Gazette and on the Internet site of the Assembly inviting any individuals and organizations interested in the matter under consideration to submit a brief to the committee. Public hearings are then held by the committee in order to discuss the submissions received.

Special consultations

Special consultations are limited to individuals and organizations chosen by the Committee or by the Assembly owing to their knowledge or expertise regarding the matter under consideration.

General and special consultations

In 2005-2006, no less than 1082 groups and individuals came before the committees to give their opinion on the various matters on which consultations were held and 1298 briefs were submitted to the committees (the annual average is 640 briefs). The committees also received 3000 opinions submitted during five on-line consultations. These consultations enable the parliamentarians to properly assess the issues arising from a matter under consideration.

The following are some of the matters on which public consultations were held: the youth protection bill, the educational childcare bill, the paper entitled «Pharmaceutical Policy», the bill on reserved designations and added-value claims, the bill on access to documents held by public bodies and the protection of personal information, the five-year report on the development of manpower training, the bill on school denomination, the bill on the director of criminal and penal prosecutions, the bill on sustainable development, the policy paper on off-highway vehicles, the draft bill to replace the *Election Act*. Finally, it should be mentioned that the Committee on Social Affairs published a final report containing nine recommendations following the general consultation with reference to the paper entitled «Towards a new social contract for equality between women and men».

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure 2004-2005

For a three-week period, during the month of May, the committees considered the estimates of expenditure that the Government placed before the Assembly for its authorization, as stipulated in Standing Order 282. Upon the conclusion of their mandate, the committees had devoted slightly over 192 hours to the examination and adoption of the estimates of expenditure granted to the ministries and agencies, totalling over 55 billion dollars.

3. Statutory orders and orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

Statutory orders stem from an act or a regulation arising therefrom, or they may originate from a Standing Order of the National Assembly. As an example, the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level enjoins the Committee on Education to hear the head officers of these establishments every three years. To carry out this mandate, the Committee developed an analytical grid comprising 70 indicators and heard the head officers of 19 universities. The final report of the Committee contains 32 recommendations.

INTERPELLATIONS

Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, every Member sitting in opposition may interpellate a minister on a matter of general interest for which he is officially responsible. The interpellation is held at a meeting of the appropriate standing committee, on Friday morning, from 10.00 o'clock a.m. to 12.00 o'clock noon. One interpellation may be held each week during the periods in which the Assembly ordinarily meets (excepting during intensive session, when none may be held).

The Government's ministers were interpellated in committee on the following matters:

- the dismantling of the educational childcare network;
- kidnappings, forcible confinements and abuses of authority towards Québec's children;
- Québec's family policy;
- the assessment of the election commitments in the health and social services sector;
- the situation of Québec's regions;
- Québec's energy strategy;
- the state of federal-provincial relations;
- sustainable development in Québec;
- the transport policies;
- the health sector promises;
- the Government's budget policies.

The Committee on Public Administration

This Committee is required to hear public administrators on their management. It carries out this mandate by inviting the deputy ministers and the chief executive officers of public bodies to come before it to answer the questions of parliamentarians on their annual management reports or to discuss the observations contained in the Auditor General's reports. In 2005-2006, the Committee heard a dozen deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies and it analyzed 16 annual management reports during deliberative meetings. Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, the Committee must also examine all financial commitments equal to or exceeding $25,000 that the Treasury Board, the Executive Council, or any ministry has authorized. In 2005-2006, the Committee examined 19,000 financial commitments.

Facilitating citizen participation and access to documents

The modernization of proceedings within the standing committees continued in the course of 2005-2006, which contributed to bringing the elected officials and the citizens even closer together and to facilitate the work of parliamentarians. For instance, the committees held five on-line consultations during which over 3000 opinions were submitted.

They also held a dozen videoconferences and webcast all of their proceedings, including those of the travelling committees. These initiatives complement the existing methods, which include fast access on the Internet site to the transcript of all debates and the existence of a Web page for each of the committees, where all information relating to the proceedings is available.

In order to further facilitate standing committee work, the Greffier (Clerk) project was developed and will be operational in the near future. This will enable Members to have access, from their portable computer, to all pertinent information: texts of bills and amendments, documents tabled, votes and proceedings, consultation and background papers, briefs and reports.

The National Assembly and THE CITIZENS

Bringing the citizens and their elected representatives closer together

During recent decades, the National Assembly has equipped itself with a vast array of communications methods and tools for the purpose of bringing the citizens and their elected representatives closer together. It is, incidentally, one of the most pioneering parliamentary assemblies in the world in this regard.

THE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

To stimulate the interest of people of all ages in the exercise of democracy and to provide the tools that will contribute to making them active and well-informed citizens, the National Assembly has developed various activities and publications to educate on democracy.

The President's tour of the schools

In order to further instruct students on the role of the National Assembly, its history and its achievements, during winter 2006, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, conducted a tour of 14 high schools, during which he met with over 5000 students and teachers from six regions of Québec, namely the Côte-Nord, Charlevoix, Capitale-nationale, Montérégie, Nord-du-Québec and Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean regions. This tour, whose theme was The Challenge of Democracy, falls within the framework of the educational activities of the Assembly. Its aim is to heighten the awareness of young people on the importance of taking part in the democratic process and to present the Assembly as the forum for debates and discussions on the issues affecting their daily lives.

The President exchanging with the students during his tour of the high schools.

The tournament and the parliamentary simulations

The parliamentary simulations allow the participants to understand the operation of the Assembly. Thanks to this role playing, they draft and discuss bills while learning the art of compromise, consensus and the respect of others.

Young Democrats' Tournament, from 15 to 17 April 2006

Pupils' Parliament on 13 May 2005

Seniors' Parliament from 12 to 14 September 2005

YOUNG DEMOCRATS' TOURNAMENT FROM 15 TO 17 APRIL 2005

Quiz on democracy from Ancient Greece to this day

Clientele:	Secondary 4 and 5 and college
Participation:	295 students

PUPILS' PARLIAMENT ON 13 MAY 2005

Clientele:	6th grade elementary
Participation:	125 pupil-Members
Examples of bills given consideration:	An Act to establish a «sport school» programme in all elementary schools for second and third cycle students
	An Act obliging elementary schools to require that students aged 5 to 12 years old wear a uniform

SENIORS' PARLIAMENT FROM 12 TO 14 SEPTEMBER 2005

Clientele:	Retirees and pre-retirees
Participation:	125 seniors
Examples of bills given consideration:	An Act respecting the implementation of an urban development policy fostering the safety of citizens
	An Act respecting a simplified taxation system

YOUTH PARLIAMENT FROM 26 TO 30 DECEMBER 2005

Clientele:	college and university
Participation:	90 students, four of whom were from the French-speaking Community of Belgium and two from the Congo
Examples of bills given consideration:	An Act respecting parental separations
	An Act to govern sentences given to sexual offenders

STUDENT PARLIAMENT FROM 2 TO 6 JANUARY 2006

Clientele:	college and university
Participation:	132 students
Examples of bills given consideration:	An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services and other legislative provisions
	An Act to amend the Act respecting labour standards

STUDENT FORUM FROM 8 TO 12 JANUARY 2006	
Clientele:	college
Participation:	132 students
Examples of bills given consideration:	An Act respecting the rights and duties of the Members of the National Assembly An Act respecting responsible production and consumption

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT FROM 15 TO 17 FEBRUARY 2006	
Clientele:	Secondary 3 and 4
Participation:	141 students
Examples of bills given consideration:	An Act respecting the improvement of the health of Québec's young people An Act respecting certain measures fostering the reduction of Québec student debt

Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation

Since its creation on 21 June 1978, the mission of this Foundation has been to improve, among the general public and young people in particular, the knowledge of our political and parliamentary institutions through both parliamentary simulations and internships.

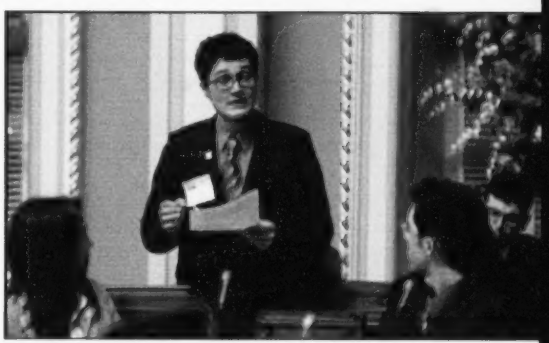
It has contributed over one million dollars in scholarships for the realization of parliamentary internships in addition to promoting the apprenticeship of our political and parliamentary institutions by young Québec university students. Close to one hundred young people have benefited from these internships and have been able to profit from the experience in their career development aspirations.

PARLIAMENTS IN HIGH SCHOOLS

On 24 November 2005, Mr. Michel Bissonnet and Mrs. Diane Leblanc, respectively President and Vice-President of the National Assembly, launched an ambitious project on democracy education: Parliaments in high schools.

The Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation want to promote the establishment in high schools of actual parliaments that will have as a reference the Standing Orders of the Québec National Assembly. These parliaments, based on the student councils defined in the Education Act and which already exist in high schools, will include a premier, ministers, members and a president, all elected.

There are currently four Québec high schools experimenting the project. A video presenting the experience lived by these students and information allowing us to follow the progress of their activities are available at the following address: http://www.parlementsausecondaire.com. The objective is to establish this project in 250 high schools within the next 5 years.



Student Forum,
8 to 12 January 2006

Young People's Parliament from
16 to 18 February 2006

Launching of an ambitious project
on democracy education:
Parliaments in high schools.

Parliamentary internships, a unique experience

Each year, for a 10-month period, the Foundation interns enjoy a hands-on experience of the numerous aspects of Québec parliamentary life. They become more familiar with the operation of the National Assembly and of the institutions that are accountable thereto, namely the Auditor General, the Public Protector, the Chief Electoral Officer and the Lobbyists Commissioner.

Subsequently, each one is paired with a Member of the Government and then with a Member sitting in opposition. The interns also take part in a mission abroad and are required to draft a dissertation.

From left to right: Yannick Vachon, Pierre-David Jean, Chantal Rainville, Marjolaine Pigeon and Jean-Francis Clermont-Legros

The scholarship interns of the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation tabled their dissertations in the presence of the Vice-President of the National Assembly, Mrs. Diane Leblanc, on 29 June 2005. This ceremony marked the end of an internship that began in September 2004.

The dissertations submitted by the five scholarship holders concerned the following subjects:

- *Conflits et convergences : la culture politique des élites francophone et anglophone du Québec au début du 19e siècle* (Jean-Francis Clermont-Legros)
- *L'efficacité des missions parlementaires* (Pierre-David Jean)
- *L'action du Collectif pour un Québec sans pauvreté, initiative citoyenne à l'origine de la Loi contre la pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale* (2002) (Marjolaine Pigeon)
- *Cyberdémocratie et cyberparlement : vers un changement de la gouvernance au Québec?* (Chantal Rainville)
- *L'arrêt Vaid : une ouverture à l'ingérence des tribunaux dans les affaires internes du Parlement canadien et des législatures provinciales?* (Yannick Vachon).

These dissertations are available at the Library of the Québec National Assembly.

Members of the public administration learn the rudiments of parliamentary procedure

In spring 2005, a course on parliamentary procedure was developed to meet the needs of the Justice Ministry lawyers. Two courses were offered, the first in Québec City, in May 2005, and the second in Montréal, in October 2005. Over 100 lawyers took part in these two three-hour sittings.

Furthermore, in winter 2006, a course was also prepared for the personnel of the Chief Electoral Officer, the Lobbyists Commissioner, the Commission d'accès à l'information, the Public Protector and the Auditor General.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ASSEMBLY AND LAVAL UNIVERSITY

In June 2005, the National Assembly of Québec and Laval University signed an agreement, for an initial duration of three years, which includes, among others provisions, the creation, by Laval University, of courses on law, parliamentary procedure and institutions, as well as the participation of professors in studies related to the fields of interest of the Assembly.

The partnership also enables the participation of the National Assembly in research work carried out by professors or students undertaking graduate studies on the parliamentary institution. This agreement also enables the National Assembly personnel to welcome Laval University students for internships and provide support thereto.

AN ASSEMBLY THAT IS OPEN TO THE CITIZENS

In the company of guides, the citizens are invited to visit the Parliament Building, which was designed by architect Eugène-Étienne Taché and whose construction spanned from 1877 to 1886. This building is part of a group that has been designated a national historic site. During the tour, guides explain the history and operation of the National Assembly of Québec. At the same time, visitors have the opportunity to discover and admire the special architectural features of the building and the richness of the art displayed therein. Tours are given in French and English and, upon reservation, in Spanish, Italian and Québec sign language.

In the company of guides, the citizens are invited to visit the Parliament Building.

A total of 74,992 persons visited the Parliament Building in 2005-2006.

Language	Number	Place of origin	Number	
French	53,104	Québec	47,066	63 %
English	20,034	Other provinces	6821	9 %
Spanish	1350	United States	8393	11 %
Italian	428	Other countries	12,712	17 %
German	55			
QSL (Québec sign language)	21			

Several visitors take the opportunity to attend the sittings of the Assembly and of the standing committees. One hundred and forty seats are available in the galleries of the National Assembly Chamber and seats are reserved for the public in each of the standing committee rooms.

Young people are not left behind. In collaboration with the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec (national capital commission), the National Assembly offers several visit programmes for elementary and high school students, some of which are specifically developed for immi-

In 2005-2006, the National Assembly hosted 221 official visits, protocol ceremonies and private activities that brought together 13,771 persons.

grant students and contribute to their French language learning. These activities include not only a visit of the Parliament Building but also a tour of the Premiers' Promenade and of the Observatory of the Capital.

During the past year, **23,785 students** took advantage of a guided tour.

Commission de la capitale nationale		Student groups		Total of students	
Elementary	5277	Elementary	7254	Elementary	12,531
High School	3420	High School	6371	High School	9791
Postsecondary	308			Postsecondary	308
		College	725	College	725
		University	430	University	430
Total	**9005**	**Total**	**14,780**	**Total**	**23,785**

The welcoming of cultural communities

Ever-mindful of promoting the work of Members and of reinforcing relations between the parliamentary institutions and the citizens that make up Québec society, irrespective of their origin, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, invited representatives of various cultural communities of Québec to visit the Parliament Building in 2005-2006.

The following groups were welcomed:

- Venezuelan community (7 April 2005)
- Peruvian community (14 April 2005)
- Italian community of Québec (20 October 2005)
- Chilean community (10 November 2005)
- Senegalese community (24 November 2005)
- Congolese community (30 March 2006)

The President of the National Assembly welcomed the Peruvian community on 14 April 2005.

A FORUM FOR CULTURAL EXCHANGES

Third edition of the *Journée du livre politique au Québec* (*Political Book Day in Québec*)

On 5 April 2005, some one hundred people took part in the third edition of the *Journée du livre politique au Québec* at the Library of the National Assembly. The launching of the essay entitled «Nous, peuple du Québec - Un projet de Constitution du Québec» by the Member for Mercier, Mr. Daniel Turp, and of the *Répertoire des fonds d'archives de parlementaires québécois* of the Assembly Library, as well as round table discussions hosted by journalist Françoise Guénette were on the Day's agenda.

Furthermore, awards were distributed to the following authors at the conclusion of the Day's activities:

- Yvan Lamonde, *Histoire sociale des idées au Québec 1896-1929*: Prix de la Présidence de l'Assemblée nationale, in the amount of $5000.
- Suzanne Clavette, *Jalon oublié... Des catholiques progressistes au temps de Duplessis : le mouvement de la réforme de l'entreprise (1944-1954)* : Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant (doctorate dissertation) in the amount of $3000 and the Prix Ministère des Relations internationales du Québec/Ministère des Affaires étrangères de France.
- Jasmin Savard, *La réorganisation municipale au Québec (2000-2003)* : vers un renforcement politique des nouvelles grandes villes?: Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant (master's thesis) in the amount of $2000.

The award winners of the third edition of the *Journée du livre politique au Québec* at the Library of the National Assembly.

LA GRANDE COLLECTE DE LIVRES (BOOK-RAISING EVENT)

The President of the National Assembly of Québec, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Fondation des parlementaires québécois Cultures à partager, Mrs. Jeanne L. Blackburn, took part in the launching of a vast book-raising event among high school students, on 26 April 2005. This book raising was one of the activities falling within the framework of the *Montréal, World Book Capital City 2005-2006* event.

From 1 May to 15 June, students from high schools throughout Québec were invited to actively take part in this book raising by giving a book, in which they placed a bookmark with their comments, and by donating one dollar to cover the book's shipping costs. The Members of the National Assembly were, for their part, responsible for collecting books in their respective ridings. The books gathered were sent to local community organizations and to developing countries.

The objective was to collect 1000 books in each of the high schools and to send at least 100,000 books to developing countries who are partners of the Fondation. On 15 September 2005, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, announced that this objective had been exceeded, as over 107,000 books were gathered during the book-raising event.

The unveiling of the bust of Pierre-Joseph-Olivier Chauveau.

UNVEILING OF A BUST AND THE CHAUVEAU EXHIBITION

The President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, unveiled on 2 November, at the Assembly Library, a bust of Pierre-Joseph-Olivier Chauveau (1820-1890), first holder of the office of Premier of Québec. This bust was created by artists Suzanne Gravel and Yvon Milliard.

Mr. Charles Robert, a descendent of Chauveau, Principal Procedural Clerk at the Senate of Canada, attended this unveiling ceremony, in addition to the Premier of Québec, Mr. Jean Charest, the Leader of the Official Opposition, Mrs. Louise Harel, and the Leader of the Action démocratique du Québec, Mr. Mario Dumont.

An intellectual figure who marked the 19th century, Pierre-Joseph-Olivier Chauveau was a Member, then a Minister and finally Premier of Québec, from 1867 to 1873. A native of Charlesbourg, he transformed his passion of books and education into the driving force behind his political and social commitment.

On 2 November, the Library also launched the exhibition entitled *«Entre savoir et pouvoir: la collection de Pierre-Joseph-Olivier Chauveau»*, displaying some of the outstanding items of the Chauveau Collection, which is classified as historical property and conserved by the Library, as well as objects having belonged to this politician.

Exhibition on political caricature

Over 2000 persons visited the exhibition devoted to political caricature, from 14 June to 28 August 2005. Current and former parliamentarians had been invited to select their favourite caricatures. This exhibition brought together 80 drawings by editorial cartoonists hailing from various regions of Québec. Both *tormentors* and *victims* socialized at the opening of the exhibition in the presence of the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, the Vice-President of the National Assembly and steering committee chairman of Political Book Day, Mrs. Diane Leblanc, and several parliamentarians and cartoonists.

Ceremony commemorating the 65th anniversary of women obtaining the right to vote in Québec.

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

On Tuesday, 19 April 2005, a commemorative ceremony was held in the Legislative Council Chamber at the Parliament Building on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the recognition of women's eligibility and right to vote. The President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, awarded the Medal of the National Assembly to Mrs. Madeleine Parent, representative of the women committed to fighting for women's right to vote.

COMMUNITY FEAST

It was a day of celebration at the National Assembly on Sunday, 26 June 2005. Numerous citizens took part in the festivities surrounding the 10th anniversary of the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec (national capital commission). Brunches, a tour of the Parliament Building and its gardens, a performance by the musical group Mauvais Sort and activities for children awaited visitors.

On this occasion, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, and the Chairman of the Commission de la capitale nationale, Mr. Pierre Boulanger, officially launched the Place de l'Assemblée-Nationale and the Promenade Eugène-Étienne-Taché.

Community Feast

COMMUNICATIONS

The publication Memories of Bronze

To complement their tour of the National Assembly, visitors may now obtain the information folder Memories of Bronze. This publication enables them to learn more about the architecture, ornamentation, statues and the history of the Parliament Building. This information and reference tool mainly presents each of the statues along with a brief description thereof. This free publication, published in both French and English, is available at the Communications Directorate and at the visitor services desks.

Internet site

In 2005-2006, the Assembly continued to develop the content of its Internet site. The capacity to simultaneously broadcast live audio and video debates passed from two to four events. Furthermore, citizens were given the opportunity to submit their opinion on five subjects being examined in parliamentary committee via on-line consultations. It should be noted that new historical information is also now available, particularly with the addition of the reconstructed debates of the Second Session of the Eighteenth Legislature (from 10 January 1933 to 13 April 1933).

Moreover, a redevelopment of the Internet site was undertaken for the purpose of further meeting the needs of the various clienteles (citizens, parliamentarians, young people, specialists, etc.). This large-scale project, which shall span three years, requires a complete review of the contents that are broadcast and the creation of new on-line services. The main objectives of the redevelopment project are:

- to bring the citizens closer to the Parliament and its Members by fostering increased participation in the proceedings of the Assembly using the new information technologies;
- to present information in an engaging manner by placing emphasis on the Members and the parliamentary proceedings;

- to broadcast information in a personalized fashion according to the needs of each clientele;
- to increase the interest of young people in the activities of the Assembly.

The National Assembly Channel

The television channel of the National Assembly is a unique tool that allows Québec's population to learn more about the machinery of our parliamentary democracy. Since its creation in 1978, the Channel has not ceased to modernize itself.

Several special events, press conferences, press briefings and parliamentary simulations are now included in the broadcast programme. The parliamentary proceedings can be viewed via live broadcast, delayed broadcast or rebroadcast on the National Assembly Channel and live on the Internet site of the Assembly. The following table highlights the broadcast activities carried out in 2005-2006.

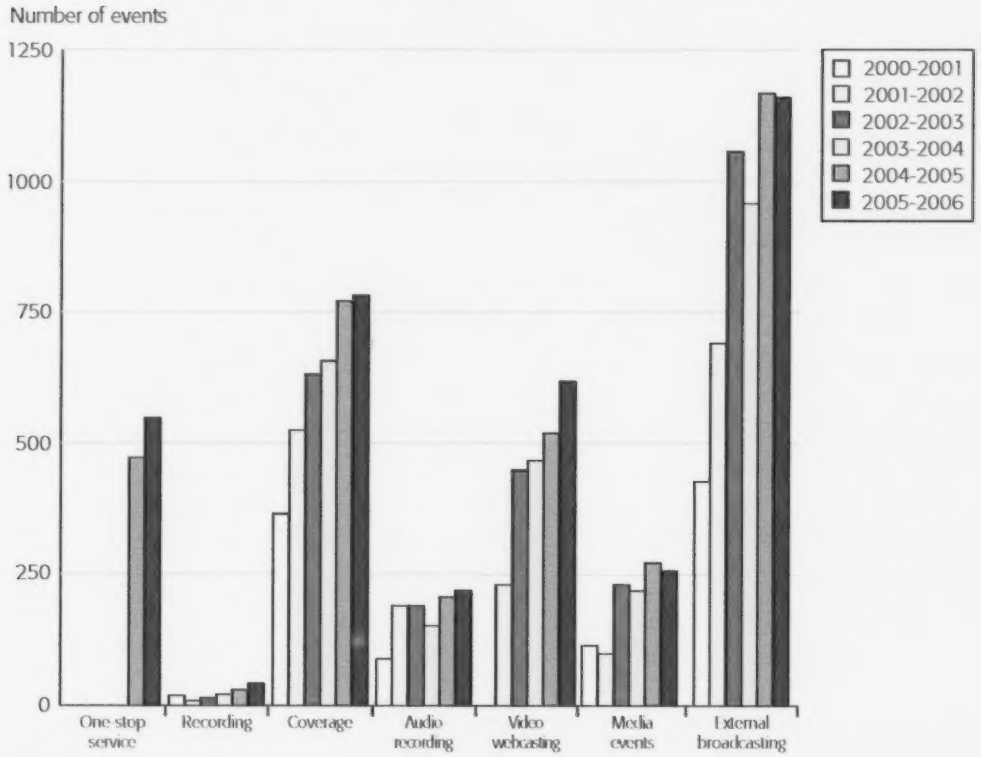
The National Assembly Channel is a unique tool that allows the Québec population to learn more about the machinery of our parliamentary democracy.

Coverage service	Number of events	Duration
Televisual coverage	805	1466 h 17
On-location recording	60	166 h 30
Audio recording	213	460 h 53
Digital recording, *Journal des débats* (Hansard)	952	1946 h 05
Broadcasting		
Cable broadcasting and satellite	1151	1921 h 36
Webcasting	907	1882 h 17

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

Video files are available on the Internet site of the National Assembly to view the swearing-in of parliamentarians, budget speeches, press conferences, the elections of the President, question periods, Cabinet shuffles, special events and educational activities.

Statistics – Fiscal years 2000 to 2005
Broadcasting on the National Assembly Channel
(number of events)



DID YOU KNOW THAT?

On the National Assembly Internet site, the most frequently visited page is the Journal des débats (Hansard). The Journal is an essential work tool for Members and a foremost source of information for all persons interested in parliamentary proceedings.

VIDEOCONFERENCING

As regards multimedia and videoconferencing, the Assembly provides the Members and its administration with two pieces of videoconferencing equipment. The first is permanently installed in Louis-Joseph-Papineau Room, while the second is mobile and may be used in different rooms.

In the course of the past year, a total of nine videoconferences were organized, seven of which were held during televised parliamentary committees to hear persons residing in various cities of Québec, Canadian provinces and foreign countries such as the United States and Sweden.

The National Assembly and PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Four major objectives govern the international relations of the National Assembly of Québec:

1. Maintain and reinforce the effectiveness of the parliamentary institution and elected officials in their duties;
2. Actively participate in building a global community founded on democracy, peace, justice, and prosperity;
3. Improve the position of the National Assembly on the international scene and thus contribute to broadening the outreach of Québec society;
4. Enhance the institutional reputation of the National Assembly within interparliamentary networks.

GLOSSARY

APF

Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie): founded in 1967, composed of 72 Parliaments of unitary, federal and federated States from 54 countries. (National Assembly: full member since 1974)

CPA

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: founded in 1911, composed of 171 Parliaments of unitary, federal and federated States from 54 countries. (National Assembly: full member since 1933)

PCOA

Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas: composed of 35 countries and 300 assemblies, created in 1997 on the initiative of the National Assembly of Québec, composed of the parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal and federated States, the regional Parliaments and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas.

The National Assembly plays an active role in international parliamentary networks. They provide opportunities to exchange information, expertise, experiences and ideas. These relations that a Parliament maintains with one or several others are called interparliamentary relations. Parliamentary diplomacy is exercised within various international organizations as well as with members of the diplomatic and consular corps. Hence, for over half a century, the National Assembly has developed an important network of relations which fall into the following three broad categories:

- multilateral relations (relations between the Assembly and organizations bringing together several Parliaments);
- bilateral relations (relations between the Assembly and one other Parliament);
- interparliamentary cooperation (support to the reinforcement of parliamentary institutions in countries that are developing and that are consolidating democracy).

In our democratic systems, which are based on the separation of powers, Parliaments conduct their international relations independently and in respect of political pluralism. The President of the National Assembly has the responsibility of representing the institution during international activities, whose non-partisan nature is ensured by delegations composed of Members from the various political groups represented at the Assembly.

MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

The Parliamentary Francophonie

In April 2005, the National Assembly welcomed to Québec City some forty parliamentarians from the Committee on Education, Communications and Cultural Affairs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF). At the conclusion of this meeting, the parliamentarians issued a Declaration supporting the Preliminary Draft Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions prepared by UNESCO and requesting that the APF be invited to the 33rd session of the General Conference of UNESCO. A Québec Member represented the APF at this meeting of the General Conference, held in Paris in October 2005. The members of the General Conference thereupon adopted the Preliminary Draft Convention proposed by the Director-General of UNESCO.

Moreover, a National Assembly delegation took part in the 31st session of the APF that was held in Brussels (French-speaking Community of Belgium) from 6 to 9 July 2005. During this session, the President of the National Assembly and Vice-Chairman of the APF, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, participated in the general opening debate of the session on the theme «The contribution of the Francophonie to cultural diversity in

the globalization movement». Also, two young Quebecers attended the third session of the Francophone Youth Parliament (PFJ).

Furthermore, the Québec National Assembly initiated the passage by the APF of resolutions concerning more specifically the decadal strategic framework of the Francophonie, the adoption of a Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions by UNESCO, and the APF's commitment with regard to the international trade negotiations conducted under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO). For the first time, the APF adopted in plenary assembly a Declaration by the Network of Women Parliamentarians regarding the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), a theme which the Québec Section has the responsibility to report on.

Two seminars were organized during the year in furtherance of the objective of the United Nations respecting the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, which were attended by the woman Member of the Québec National Assembly responsible for this issue. The first seminar, which brought together women parliamentarians of the Indian Ocean, was held in Madagascar in April 2005, and the second was held in Libreville, Gabon, in December 2005.

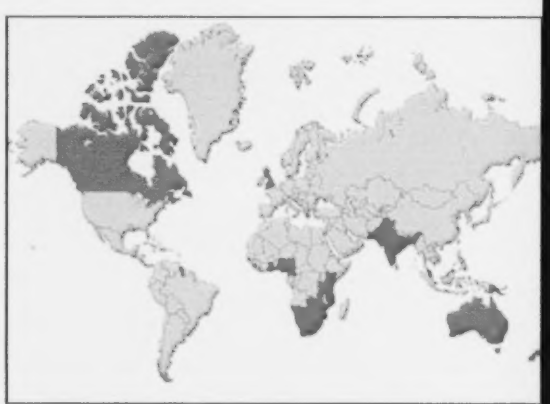
In view of the 11th Summit of the Francophonie, that will be held in Bucharest (Romania) in September 2006, the APF entrusted the Committee on Education, Communications and Cultural Affairs with the drafting of the opinion of Francophone parliamentarians on the theme «The Francophonie in the direction of an information and knowledge-based society through universal education». Moreover, the Political Committee prepared the second part of its opinion on the implementation of the Francophonie's strategic framework. Two Members of the Québec Section are responsible for drafting these strategic papers that will be presented to the heads of State and Government of the Francophonie at the Bucharest Summit.

The member sections of the APF

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

During 2005-2006, on the occasion of the 48th Canadian Regional Conference, held in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, the National Assembly took part in the creation of a Canadian Section of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the CPA. A Québec woman Member represents the National Assembly on the Network's steering committee.

Furthermore, the National Assembly welcomed the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, the Right Honourable George Reid, and a delegation of Scottish parliamentarians. This activity falls within the framework of the annual visits of Scottish parliamentarians to North America marking Tartan Day. On this occasion, the parliamentarians exchanged views on issues such as productive immigration strategies and juvenile crime.



The member sections of the CPA

The member conferences and parliamentary assemblies of the PCOA

An election observation mission led by a Member of the National Assembly was carried out in Bolivia during the general election held on 18 December. This mission was composed of three parliamentarians originating from Québec, Mexico and Brazil.

The member parliamentary assemblies of the NCSL

The Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (PCOA)

In December 2005, the National Assembly took part in the PCOA's first election observation mission since the adoption, in May 2005, of the Regulation on election observation missions of the PCOA, a mission whose objectives were to assess election arrangements and to observe how the elections are conducted on polling day in Bolivia.

Generally satisfied with the conduct of the elections, the PCOA parliamentarians noted that, by and large, the electoral procedure had been observed and that the polling had been properly carried out. They were most impressed with the decency and seriousness demonstrated by the Bolivians during this election.

Moreover, from 7 to 11 May 2005, a National Assembly delegation took part in the 6th General Assembly of the PCOA which was held in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil. The parliamentarians of the Americas thus came together primarily to discuss the theme «Migrations, integration and trade agreements». In plenary session, the delegates agreed to the National Assembly's proposal to host the General Assembly of the PCOA in 2008, as part of the celebrations focussing on the 400th anniversary of Québec City. The Québec Secretariat of the PCOA, whose headquarters are at the National Assembly, was also given the responsibility of the Committee on Democracy and Peace, chaired by a Québec Member.

Québec parliamentarians attended the 5th Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas on 7 May 2005, which was held in parallel with the 6th General Assembly of the PCOA, on the theme «The impact of migrations in the context of hemispheric integration». A Québec woman Member presented the documentary bank developed by the Secretariat of the Network on the annual theme, as well as a follow-up report on «The impact of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) on Women». The Network Secretariat, whose offices are at the National Assembly, contributed to organizing this meeting. The National Assembly kept its seat on the Network's executive committee.

The United States (ERC, CSG and NCSL)

As an international associated member of the Council of State Governments (CSG) and of its Eastern chapter, the Eastern Regional Conference (ERC), the National Assembly holds responsible positions on the executive committees of both of these associations, as well as the vice-chairmanship of the Committee on Canada–United-States Relations and of the Committee on Energy and the Environment at the ERC. In January 2006, the First Vice-President of the National Assembly, Mr. William Cusano, was named Vice-Chairman of the ERC.

It is the first time that a Member outside of the United States holds this prestigious office, Québec being the only international associated member of this organization. The chairmanship will thus be given to Québec in 2007.

Furthermore, the National Assembly sponsored two resolutions concerning the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). The First Vice-President of the National Assembly took part in the ERC's extraordinary mission at the United States Congress for the purpose of informing American parliamentarians on the concerns of the ERC regarding the implementation, in 2008, of an American measure that would oblige Canadian and American travellers to present their passport at the land and marine border crossings with the United States.

The National Assembly is also an international associated member of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). The organization's General Assembly, which met in Seattle in July 2005, adopted an amendment allowing the National Assembly of Québec to sit on the Executive Committee of the NCSL, representing the legislative assemblies associated to the NCSL as international members.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

France-Québec Interparliamentary Cooperation

The 26th France-Québec Interparliamentary Committee was held in Paris, from 11 to 17 September 2005. Its discussions focussed on the place of youth and women in politics as well as on public-private partnerships. It had been preceded by an official visit of the President of the Québec National Assembly, on 12 and 13 September, with his French National Assembly counterpart, Mr. Jean-Louis Debré.

Furthermore, a delegation of the Committee on Family and Children's Rights from the French National Assembly visited Québec City to exchange views with their Québec counterparts regarding legislations that recognize same-sex marriages.

Moreover, from 27 June to 2 July 2005, the President of the National Assembly headed a delegation of parliamentarians on a mission to the French Senate. Two themes were more specifically discussed during the working meetings, namely France's role and position within the European Union and the impact of security measures put into place in France since the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 and 11 March 2004. The President of the Québec National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, also received an invitation from the President of the French Senate, Senator Christian Poncelet, on the occasion.

Finally, a delegation of the Law Committee of the French Senate was welcomed at the National Assembly in September 2005 by Québec Members, with whom they discussed the modernization of the public service.

A National Assembly delegation was welcomed in Barcelona by the Parliament of Catalonia, from 10 to 15 July 2005.

Cooperation with the Parliament of Catalonia

A National Assembly delegation was welcomed in Barcelona by the Parliament of Catalonia, from 10 to 15 July 2005, during the 1st Québec-Catalonia Interparliamentary Committee. The exchanges focussed on water management, the Québec National Assembly parliamentary reform and the reform of Catalonia's status, defining its relations with Spain.

Relations with other States and European institutions

From 1 to 5 May 2005, the National Assembly hosted the 2nd meeting of the Québec-Bavaria Joint Parliamentary Committee. The Bavarian and Québec parliamentarians discussed parliamentary work, federalism as well as regional development.

Also, a delegation of the Bavarian Committee on the Environment and Consumer Protection visited Québec City on 4 and 5 October to learn more about Québec's alternative and renewable energy sources. Moreover, two major European committees came to Québec, in December, to meet the parliamentarians of the National Assembly, outside of their attending the World Conference on Climate Change.

The Committee on the Environment, Agriculture, and Local and Regional Affairs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe visited the National Assembly, on 7 December 2005, to discuss sustainable development, renewable energy sources and climate change.

Members of the European Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health, and Food Safety met with Members of the National Assembly on 9 December to exchange views on these same issues.

New Brunswick–Québec Parliamentary Association

The objective of the New Brunswick–Québec Parliamentary Association is to foster interparliamentary dialogue between the two institutions. It thus constitutes a forum for the holding of regular meetings to encourage discussions on various issues, including the economy and trade, workforce mobility, transportation, border issues, health, the environment, education, culture and tourism.

The second session of the Association was held in Fredericton in September 2005. The parliamentarians discussed current political and parliamentary events. They also exchanged information and expertise on parliamentary reform as well as on forestry management.

The second session of the New Brunswick–Québec Parliamentary Association was held in Fredericton in September 2005.

INTERPARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

For several years now, the National Assembly has played an active role in reinforcing parliamentary democracy, by providing to the parliamentary institutions of States that are developing and consolidating democracy the technical support needed to develop parliamentary and administrative operations.

Within this framework, a discussion seminar for parliamentarians conducted by two Québec Members took place at the National Assembly of Niger, in Niamey, from 11 to 13 October 2005. This mission enabled Members on both sides to improve their practice of parliamentarism by sharing their experiences as elected officials, legislators and controllers of the governmental activity. Moreover, a technical seminar for plenary assembly and parliamentary committee staff was held at the Benin National Assembly, from 27 to 29 September 2005.

The Assembly also welcomed to Québec City several delegations from partner assemblies.Thus, from 13 to 15 June 2005, Senators and Members of the Cambodian Parliament came to examine the general operations of our Assembly and of its Library. Also, from 5 to 9 December 2005, a delegation of five Members from the National Assembly of Burkina Faso carried out a study tour on the operation of Québec's parliamentary system as regards budgetary control issues.

The Assembly also hosted two multilateral technical seminars developed in close collaboration with the APF's Noria Programme: on parliamentary libraries from 30 January to 3 February 2006; with several directors of legislative services from 20 to 24 February 2006. Technical collaborations were also carried out with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at the Chamber of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco and in Algeria with regard to communications (September 2005) and the virtual library (December 2005).

THE OFFICIAL VISITS

The international commitments of the National Assembly bring a great number of foreign dignitaries to Québec City. In 2005-2006, the National Assembly welcomed the following:

Assembly Speakers and Deputy Speakers:

Mr. Alois Glück	President of the Landtag of Bavaria
Mr. Jean-François Istasse	President of the Parliament of the French-speaking Community of Belgium
The Right Honourable George Reid	Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament
Mrs. Zohra Drif Bitat	Vice-President of the National Council of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Parliamentarians:

Mrs. Chantale Bertouille	Chairman of the Committee on Interior Affairs and the Public Service of the Walloon Parliament, accompanied by a delegation of Members
Mr. Patrick Bloche	Head of the delegation of parliamentarians from the French National Assembly, on a fact-finding mission concerning family and children's rights, accompanied by Members
Mr. Patrice Diessongo	Head of the delegation and member of the Committee on Finance and the Budget of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso, accompanied by a delegation of Members
Mr. Karl-Heinz Florenz	Chairman of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety of the European Parliament, accompanied by a delegation of Members
Mrs. Aparecida Gama	Member of the Legislative Assembly of Rio and Chairman of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas
The Honourable Ndile Kalembe	Member of Parliament of the Republic of Kenya
Mr. Henning Kaul	Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on the Environment and Consumer Protection of the Landtag of Bavaria, accompanied by a delegation of Members
Mr. Miroslav Mikolasik	Member of the European Parliament
Mrs. Jenny Randerson	Member of the National Assembly of Wales
Mr. Walter Schmied	Chairman of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture, and Local and Regional Affairs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, (PACE), accompanied by a delegation of Members
Mrs. Nouxha Skalli	Member of the Chamber of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco

Mr. Michael Tarr	Head of the delegation of parliamentarians from the Province of Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa, accompanied by a delegation of Members
Mr. Cheam Yeap	Head of the delegation composed of five parliamentary committee chairmen from the National Assembly and the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Members of the Québec-Bavaria Joint Parliamentary Committee

Members of a delegation from the State of Delaware (United States of America)

Members of the Committee on Education, Communications and Cultural Affairs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF)

Members of the Joint Committee of the National Assembly and the Parliament of the French-speaking Community of Belgium

Overview of the national and international figures on **official visits** at the National Assembly in 2005-2006:

- **12** Government representatives
- **12** foreign diplomats
- **26** parliamentarians

Government representatives:

Mr. Josep Bargalló	Prime Minister of Catalonia
Mrs. Patricia Birkholz	President Pro Tempore of the Senate of the State of Michigan (United States of America)
Mr. James H. Douglas	Governor of the State of Vermont (United States of America)
Mr. Marconi Ferreira Perillo Junior	Governor of the State of Goiàs (Brazil)
Mr. Paul Ngarambe	Chairman of the National Independent Electoral Commission (NIEC) of the Republic of Burundi, accompanied by members of the NIEC
Mr. Pat Quinn	Lieutenant-Governor of the State of Illinois (United States of America)
Mr. Marc Ravalomanana	President of the Republic of Madagascar
Mr. Phan Van Khai	Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

The National Assembly and THE HERITAGE

The team that took part in the reconstruction of the debates on the occasion of the ceremony marking the completion of work.

THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

Reconstructing the debates – A ceremony was held at the Library of the National Assembly on 24 May 2005 to mark the completion of the reconstruction of debates. This project, which is an invaluable heritage source and contains a wealth of information for those interested in the evolution of Québec, will have spanned a period of some 27 years. More than 126 persons contributed thereto. The debates of 71 sessions, beginning with 1893, were reconstitued. This represents 3317 sittings.

Virtual Library

The Library of the National Assembly continued the content development of the virtual library. Indeed, the press documentation files – over two million pages – the Premiers' speeches, briefs tabled in parliamentary committee, a retrospective of the Journal des débats (Hansard) and a few rare and valuable books were digitized to enrich the content of its virtual library. Furthermore, the Library of the National Assembly signed a memorandum of understanding with Les Publications du Québec for the purpose of obtaining all digitized documents published by the ministries and Government agencies of Québec.

The archives

During 2005-2006, the Library acquired three new private archival fonds, two of which are from parliamentarians. Owing to these additions, the number of private archival fonds conserved at the Library Directorate now totals 24.

A Policy on accessibility and availability of archives was implemented in September 2005. The main objectives of this policy are to publicize the existence and nature of the institutional and private archives of the National Assembly and to facilitate their access by users with proper consultation conditions, while ensuring that the use, reproduction and publication of these archives comply with prevailing legislation.

COMPUTERIZED CATALOGUE

The Library's **computerized catalogue**, which may be consulted on the Internet site of the National Assembly, now contains 272,419 entries, including 27,216 electronic documents that are accessible on-line. Through the archival storage of digital texts on its server, the Library continues to develop its virtual library, a concept that encompasses more specifically the electronic resources (locally created or digitalized, or acquired from outside suppliers) as well as services to customers using leading-edge technology in order to more efficiently retrieve, process and disseminate information.

Library Collections

As at 31 March 2006, the Library had on its shelves over 1.9 million documents, which are distributed as follows:

Printed matter	
monographs, fascicles and brochures	465,551
magazines	261,973
newspapers	662,070
Microform records	
microfilms	34,858
microfiches	552,362
Electronic documents (diskettes and CD-ROMs)	1930
Audio recordings	191
Videocassettes	549
Posters, maps and photographs	967
Total	**1,980,451**

A FEW NUMBERS...

In 2005-2006, the personnel of the Reference Service answered 12,093 information and search requests. Of this number, 3097 were made by parliamentarians, their staff, the personnel of the National Assembly, or agencies under the authority of the National Assembly.

More than 10,386 persons crossed the threshhold of the Library in Pamphile-LeMay Building, including 5074 users and 5312 visitors.

Users took advantage of the Library collections at their disposal by carrying out 51,187 consultations on site, by borrowing 6661 documents or by requesting over 184,901 photocopies from sources available at the Library.

Launching of the book *Le Parlement de Québec* – The President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, presided over the launching of the book Le Parlement de Québec, histoire, anecdotes et légendes, on 22 November 2005 at the Assembly Library. This work written by Gaston Deschênes, a historian who worked at the National Assembly for 30 years, bears witness to the multiple facets of our institution that is over two centuries old. It is a compilation of partly previously unpublished texts on Members as well as on the history, membership and operation of the National Assembly.

THE ARCHITECTURAL AND URBAN HERITAGE

Presenting the architectural heritage

Numerous projects focussing on the restoration and presentation of the architectural heritage were carried out during the past year at the Assembly. Several offices of the Parliament Building had not been touched up in many years. Along the same lines, work was carried out on the main landing and staircase of the Parliament as well as in the contiguous spaces, namely the Presidents' Gallery and both vestibules. This work restored the appropriate lustrous finish to the building's symbolic spaces.

The restoration of the cast-iron crowning that adorns the campanile of the Parliament was undertaken during the past year. This piece of architecture dates back to 1895. In order to carry out the restoration work, the structure was removed and transported to a workshop. The following work was carried out: abrasive cleaning of surfaces, complete dismantling of the piece consisting of approximately 450 parts, the replacement of all of the nuts and bolts as well as the missing or damaged parts and the galvanizing and painting of the components. The structure was then reassembled. It was reinstalled at the top of the campanile in spring 2006.

The portrait of Mrs. Louise Harel, first woman President of the National Assembly

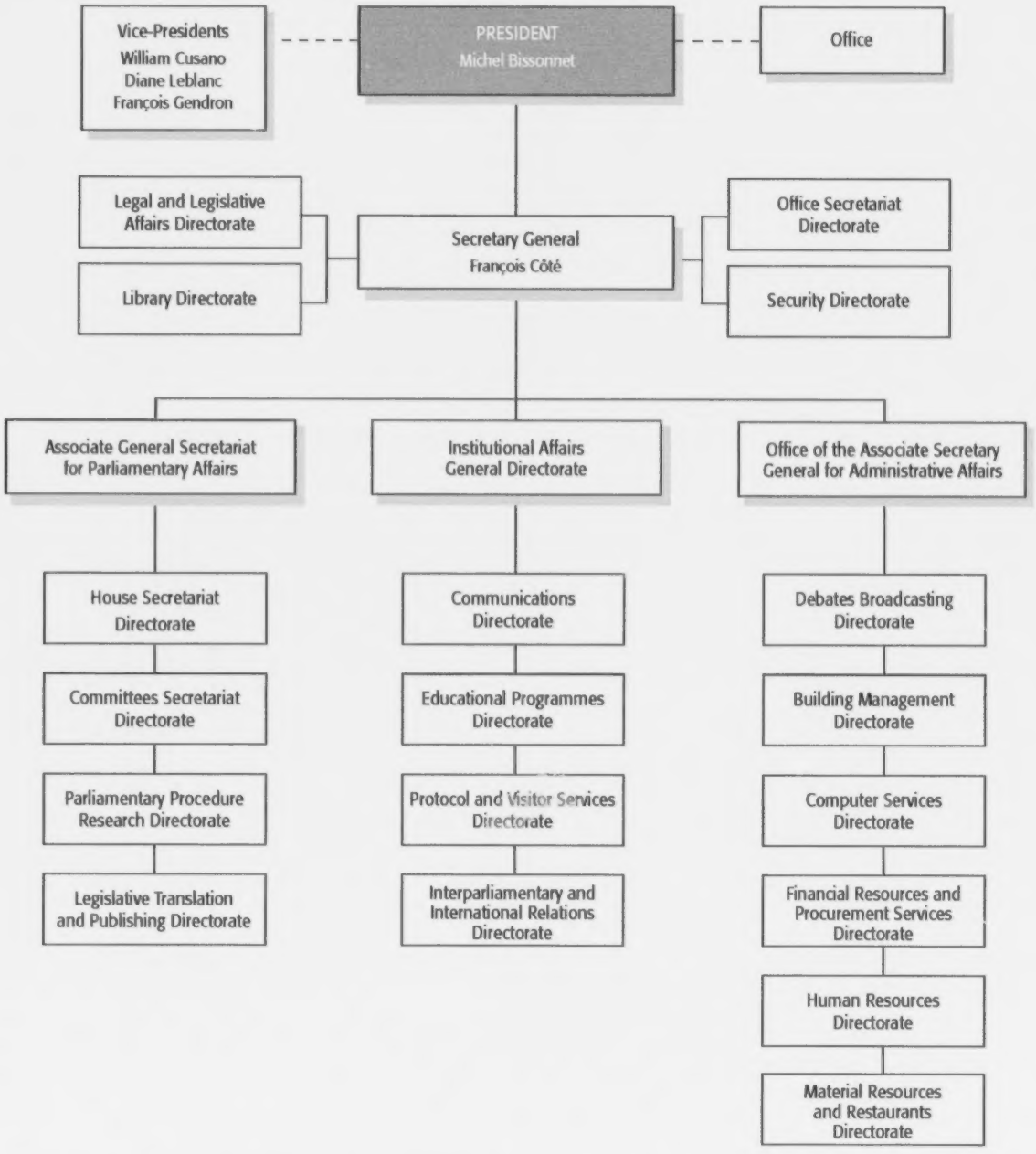
On 10 June 2005, the President of the National Assembly of Québec, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, unveiled a painting of the Leader of the Official Opposition, Mrs. Louise Harel, who was President of the National Assembly from 12 March 2002 to 4 June 2003. The author of the canvas, Mr. Denis Jacques, is mainly known for the quality and resemblance of his portraits. He creates paintings that are characterized by the presence of highly realistic figures, notwithstanding their dwelling in imaginary worlds of dreams and mythology.

The painting was placed on exhibit at the Presidents' Gallery, located near the main entrance hall of the Parliament Building. Displayed there are the portraits of the successive speakers and presidents of the National Assembly since 1867, painted or photographed by artists such as Eugène Hamel, who boasts the largest number of presidents' portraits with eight canvasses, Suzor-Côté, Ozias Leduc and, closer to home, Jean-Paul Lemieux and Francesco Iacurto.

Portrait of Louise Harel,
first woman President of the National Assembly.

The National Assembly and THE ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AS AT 31 MARCH 2006



The mandates of the administrative units are in appendix.

THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The management of the National Assembly is carried out within the framework of statutes, regulations and rules that apply thereto. However, in order to preserve the administrative independence of the institution, the Act respecting the National Assembly established the Office of the National Assembly, which is, as it were, its board of directors.

The Office adopts any regulation that it deems necessary for the management of the Assembly. Among its duties, it must approve the budget estimates of the Assembly and regulate in sectors directly involving Members, such as their various allowances and their work conditions.

Composition of the Office of the Assembly as at 31 March 2006

Other than the President of the Assembly, who is its chairman, the Office of the Assembly is composed of nine Members who are chosen by their peers. The Vice-Presidents of the Assembly may participate in the Office proceedings, but they do not have the right to vote.

Parliamentary group forming the Government (5)	Parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition (3)	Other opposition parties (1)
MEMBERS		
André Chenail *Huntingdon* France Hamel *La Peltrie* Éric R. Mercier *Charlesbourg* Sarah Perreault *Chauveau* Tony Tomassi *LaFontaine*	Guy Lelièvre *Gaspé* Michel Létourneau *Ungava* Lucie Papineau *Prévost*	Mario Dumont *Rivière-du-Loup*
SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS		
Daniel Bernard *Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue* Lucie Charlebois *Soulanges* Nicole Loiselle *Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne* Norman MacMillan *Papineau* Jean-Pierre Paquin *Saint-Jean*	Claude Cousineau *Bertrand* Michel Morin *Nicolet-Yamaska* Sylvain Pagé *Labelle*	Marc Picard *Chutes-de-la-Chaudière*

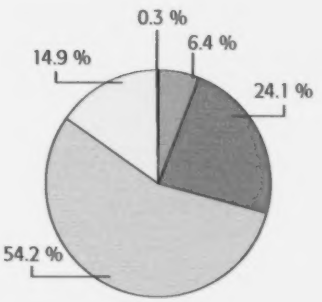
THE PERSONNEL

The workforce

As at 31 March 2006, the authorized workforce of the administrative sector of the Assembly consisted of 491 regular employees and 203 casual employees, for a total of 694 employees. The political sector, composed of executive assistants, political attachés, advisors and support staff, comprises 512 persons, both on Parliament Hill and in the Members' riding offices.

EMPLOYEES PER AGE GROUP, ADMINISTRATIVE SECTOR	
35 years and under	20 %
36-40 years	10 %
41-45 years	15 %
46-50 years	17 %
51-55 years	21 %
56 years and over	17 %

Statistics on the distribution of the administrative sector workforce per employment category



Executives	6.4 %
Professionals	24.1 %
Public servants	54.2 %
Workers	14.9 %
Others	0.3 %
Women	53 %
Men	47 %

Employee development

To carry out its mission and fulfill its strategic objectives, the Assembly relies on the skills and performance of its personnel. This year, it pursued its plan to increase the knowledge of its personnel with regard to the institution. To date, close to 200 employees have attended a tailor-made course on parliamentary procedure. Several other development activities were offered for the purpose of facilitating staff adaptation to the new technologies and the new methods of carrying out their work.

A quarter of a century of dedication

In 2005-2006, the National Assembly expressed its recognition and gratitude to the 19 employees who, in the past year, reached 25 years of service at the National Assembly or in Québec's public service. Of this number, 17 persons were in the employ of our institution for a quarter of a century.

During the past year, 19 employees of the National Assembly celebrated 25 years of service.

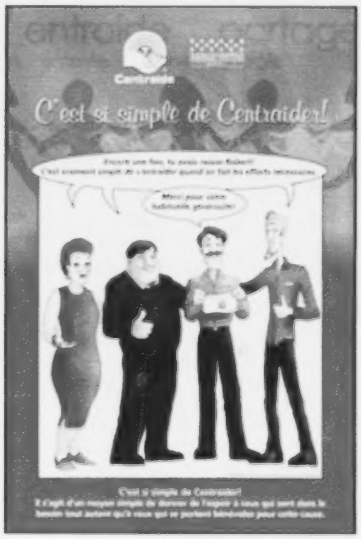
EMPLOYEES HAVING ATTAINED 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	WITHIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE
Marielle Blais	Yves Légaré
Denis Castonguay	Catherine Marois
Christian Chevalier	
Jocelyne G. Duclos	
James Hunter	
Valérien Lambert	
Denise Lamontagne	
Gilles Leclerc	
Pierre-Paul Lizotte	
Jacky Moulinneuf	
Paul Poirier	
Guy Pronovost	
Claudette Racine	
Georges Rousseau	
Lucie Roy	
René Tanguay	
Nicole Vallée	

Visit of the Debates Broadcasting Service

A VISIT OF THE DEBATES BROADCASTING SERVICE

On Monday, 3 October 2005, on the day of its 27th anniversary, the debates television broadcasting service welcomed close to 250 persons at André-Laurendeau Building for a tour of its new installations. Immediately upon arrival, visitors were invited onto a sound stage, from whence they were literally transported behind the scenes of live television.



CENTRAIDE CAMPAIGN 2005

The National Assembly raised **$37,190** during the Centraide Campaign 2005. The campaign conducted at the Assembly focussed on the slogan *C'est si simple de Centraider!* (It is so simple to help one another). The Members and the personnel of the Assembly were urged to help one another on posters displayed throughout the Assembly, on promotional leaflets enclosed with their pay envelope as well as on daily vignettes broadcast on the Intranet Portal. Activities such as the holding of a happy hour to launch the campaign and the traditional desserts auction helped attract people's attention to helping the Centraide cause in addition to collecting **$4440**.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

On 12 April 2005, the National Assembly adopted its Environmental Policy. In an effort to further contribute to the conservation of our natural resources, the institution committed itself more determinedly toward recycling, for the purpose of attaining the recycling and upgrading objectives set forth in the Québec Policy on the Management of Residual Material 1998-2008. In order to incite parliamentarians and the political and administrative staff to be environment friendly, in October 2005, the Assembly launched the campaign *Pour l'avenir, je récupère!* (I'm recycling for the future).

THE ASSEMBLY MODERNIZES ITSELF

Technological support to the administrative sector

Ever-mindful of improving productivity, optimizing and modernizing the operational methods at the National Assembly, the Computer Directorate put into place various tools to improve, among other objectives, the work of Members in parliamentary committee with the Greffier (Clerk) site. Owing to this system, parliamentarians can connect their laptop computer in the committee rooms and thus have access to a collaborative work space that contains a virtual library of documents comprising reference papers and Internet links.

CLIENT SUPPORT AT A GLANCE	
Indexed telephone assistance calls:	**10,349**
Other service calls received:	**4000**
Regular emergency service:	**123**
Number of training sessions offered by the Computer Directorate:	**47** days in which *221* persons took part

Red Cross Campaign
The President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, chaired the Red Cross fund-raising campaign for 2005-2006. The financing activity was a first at the Assembly. This event enabled to collect **$6196**.

The 400th anniversary of Québec City celebrations
A steering committee was established in June 2005 for the purpose of preparing the activities that were selected and approved by the Office.

The new workstations of the personnel of the *Journal des débats* (Hansard) are now configured with Windows XP Pro and have improved system performance and provided more stability. This new equipment has enabled an increase in productivity with regard to the parliamentary proceedings transcribing process.

The office technology resource pool of the National Assembly comprises a total of **1393 microcomputers** and **424 printers** installed on Parliament Hill and in the riding offices.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY EXPENDITURE (2005-2006)

	Expenditure ($000)	Authorized staff positions	
		Permanent employees*	Casual employees*
SECRETARY GENERAL, LEGAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARY AND SECURITY			
Office of the Secretary General	1,269.8	15	1
Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate	451.6	6	0
Library Directorate	4,815.1	82	2
Security Directorate	1,663.6	31	13
	8,200.1	**134**	**16**
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS			
General Directorate of Parliamentary Affairs	235.1	3	0
House Secretariat Directorate	617.8	7	6
Committee Secretariat Directorate	1,187.1	21	1
Parliamentary Procedure Research Directorate	290.9	7	0
Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate	376.0	18	0
	2,706.9	**56**	**7**
INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS			
General Directorate of Institutional Affairs	154.8	2	0
Communications Directorate	1,410.7	22	1
Educational Programmes Directorate	625.2	9	0
Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate	1,932.1	31	6
Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate	2,362.5	24	0
	6,485.3	**88**	**7**
ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT			
Associate General Secretariat for Administrative Affairs	283.9	4	0
Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate	4,740.7	60	29
Building Management Directorate	8,590.4	31	3
Computer Services Directorate	3,538.6	42	1
	17,153.6	**137**	**33**
MANAGEMENT SUPPORT			
Financial Resources and Procurement Services Directorate	1,177.0	26	0
Human Resources Directorate	7,639.8	20	0
Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate	4,649.7	49	21
	13,466.5	**95**	**21**
STATUTORY SUPPORT SERVICES TO MEMBERS	**44,878.1**		
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTION ACT	**1,949.8**		
FIXED ASSETS DEPRECIATION	**5,610.2**		
TOTAL EXPENSES	**100,450.5**	**510**	**84**

* Authorized FTEs (full time equivalents).

APPENDICES

BILLS PASSED

The initialism in the second column identifies the parliamentary committee that gave consideration to the bill. The committees are identified as follows:

Committee of the Whole (CW)
Committee on the National Assembly (CNA)
Committee on Culture (CC)
Committee on Public Administration (CPA)
Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (CAFF)
Committee on Planning and the Public Domain (CPP)
Committee on Labour and the Economy (CLE)
Committee on Education (CE)
Committee on Social Affairs (CSA)
Committee on Public Finance (CPF)
Committee on Institutions (CI)
Committee on Transportation and the Environment (CTE)

Government Bills

3		Appropriation Act No. 1, 2006-2007
38	CSA	An Act respecting the Health and Welfare Commissioner
57	CSA	Individual and Family Assistance Act
62	CPP	Municipal Powers Act
68	CLE	An Act to repeal the Act respecting the Société de développement de la Zone de commerce international de Montréal à Mirabel
83	CSA	An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services and other legislative provisions
85	CPF	An Act respecting the Centre de services partagés du Québec (modified title)
92	CLE	An Act to amend the Act respecting petroleum products and equipment, the Building Act and other legislative provisions
93	CAFF	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation and the Food Products Act
94	CLE	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère des Ressources naturelles, de la Faune et des Parcs and other legislative provisions
95	CE	An Act to amend various legislative provisions of a confessional nature in the education field
96	CPF	An Act respecting the Ministère des Services gouvernementaux
97	CLE	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Régie des installations olympiques
98	CLE	An Act to amend the Building Act and other legislative provisions
100	CPF	Budget Act No. 2 giving effect to the Budget Speech delivered on 30 March 2004 and to certain other budget statements
101	CC	An Act respecting the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles
102	CPF	An Act respecting the funding of certain pension plans
103	CI	An Act to amend the Act respecting administrative justice and other legislative provisions
104	CI	An Act to amend the Code of Civil Procedure and other legislative provisions
105	CI	An Act to amend the Code of Penal Procedure and the Courts of Justice Act

106	CE	An Act to amend the Education Act and the Act respecting private education
107	CTE	An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act
108	CSA	An Act to amend the Act respecting parental insurance and other legislative provisions
109	CI	Director of Public Prosecutions Act
110	CPF	An Act to amend the Act respecting the legal publicity of sole proprietorships, partnerships and legal persons and other legislative provisions
111	CPP	An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs
112	CSA	An Act to amend the Tobacco Act and other legislative provisions
114		Appropriation Act No. 1, 2005-2006
115	CW	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Cree Regional Authority
119	CLE	An Act respecting the Ministère du Tourisme
120	CPF	An Act to abolish certain public bodies and transfer administrative responsibilities
121	CLE	An Act to amend the Mining Act
123	CI	An Act respecting tax-exempt status for certain payments made in accordance with the Partnership Agreement on Economic and Community Development in Nunavik
124	CSA	Educational Childcare Act
126	CPF	Budget Act giving effect to the Budget Speech delivered on 21 April 2005 and to certain other budget statements
127	CPF	An Act to amend the Act respecting financial services cooperatives and the Act respecting the Mouvement Desjardins
128	CTE	An Act to amend the Act respecting roads
129	CTE	An Act to amend the Act respecting owners and operators of heavy vehicles and other legislative provisions
130	CSA	An Act to amend the Act respecting prescription drug insurance and other legislative provisions
131	CI	An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act and the Act respecting municipal courts
133	CI	An Act to insert article 1974.1 in the Civil Code (modified title)
134	CPP	An Act to again amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs
135	CLE	An Act to amend the Act respecting labour relations, vocational training and manpower management in the construction industry
136	CPF	An Act to amend the Act respecting insurance and the Act respecting trust companies and savings companies
142	CW	An Act respecting conditions of employment in the public sector

Bills at the stage of their clause-by-clause consideration in committee

35	CI	An Act to amend the Act respecting administrative justice and other legislative provisions (mandate not extended)
76	CPP	An Act to repeal the Act respecting the Commission municipale and to amend various legislative provisions
80	CI	An Act to amend the Police Act
86	CC	An Act to amend the Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information and other legislative provisions

89	CSA	An Act respecting clinical and research activities as regards assisted human reproduction and amending other legislative provisions
99	CLE	An Act to amend the Act respecting the leasing of part of the water power of the Shipshaw River
122	CLE	An Act to amend the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State and other legislative provisions (mandate not extended)
125	CSA	An Act to amend the Youth Protection Act and other legislative provisions

Bills at the report stage

4	CI	An Act to amend the Act respecting administrative justice (mandate not extended)

Bills at the stage of their passage in principle

88	CI	Private Security Act
113	CAFF	An Act to amend the Act respecting reserved designations (mandate not extended – replaced by Bill 137)

Bills at the stage of their introduction

2	CI	Legal Time Act
5		An Act to amend various legislative provisions of a fiscal nature
6		An Act to amend the Act respecting the Barreau du Québec
116		An Act to amend the Act respecting labour relations, vocational training and manpower management in the construction industry and the Building Act (mandate not extended)

Private Members' Public Bills (passed)

195	CPF	An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act
393	CW	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant

Private Members' Public Bills at the stage of their introduction

191		An Act to provide a fixed date for the election of Members of the National Assembly as of 16 April 2007
193		An Act to amend the Auditor General Act
198		An Act to amend the Act respecting labour standards
199		An Act to amend the Transport Act
390		An Act to prohibit the distribution of non-biodegradable plastic bags
391		An Act to amend the Act respecting the Government and Public Employees Retirement Plan
392		An Act to proclaim the International Day of Peace

Private Members' Public Bills at the stage of their clause-by-clause consideration

197	CSA	An Act to facilitate organ donation

Private Bills (passed)

220	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Thetford Mines
224	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu
225	CPP	An Act to amend the Act to incorporate the town of Lake St. Joseph
226	CPP	An Act respecting Municipalité de Sacré-Cœur

227	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Magog
229	CTE	An Act respecting Pipeline Saint-Laurent
230	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Gaspé
232	CPP	An Act to amend various loan by-laws issued by Ville de Montréal
234	CPF	An Act respecting the continuance of the Conférence des coopératives forestières du Québec as a federation of cooperatives
235	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Trois-Rivières
237	CPP	An Act respecting Municipalité de Saint-Donat
238	CI	An Act to again amend the charter of Les Filles de Jésus (Trois-Rivières)
239	CPF	An Act to provide for the continuance of the Conseil de la coopération du Québec as a cooperative and the amalgamation by absorption of the Fondation pour l'éducation à la coopération and the Association pour l'éducation des jeunes coopératrices et coopérateurs
240	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Chandler
241	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Grande-Rivière
242	CW	An Act to authorize the adoption of Marie Danielle Viviane Flynn by Paul-Aimé Sauriol

Private Bills at the stage of their clause-by-clause consideration

228	CPP	An Act to amend the Act respecting Ville de Chapais (mandate not extended)
231	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Portneuf
233	CPF	An Act respecting la Compagnie du cimetière Saint-Charles
236	CPP	An Act respecting Municipalité régionale de comté de Témiscouata (mandate not extended)

MANDATES CARRIED OUT BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Standing Subcommittee on Parliamentary Reform

Discussion within the framework of the parliamentary reform process

Committee on Public Administration

Accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies concerning:

- the report on the implementation of the Public Administration Act (Treasury Board)
- help to students experiencing learning problems (Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec and Québec English School Boards Association)
- the annual management reports 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 (Sûreté du Québec)
- the annual management report 2004-2005 (Public Security)
- the Prescription Drug Insurance Plan (Health and Social Services, Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec and Revenue Québec)
- the 2004-2005 report on the implementation of the Public Administration Act entitled «Cinq années de gestion axées sur les résultats au gouvernement du Québec» (Treasury Board)
- the annual management report 2004-2005 (Culture and Communications)

- performance and accountability in reference to chapter 4 of the Auditor General's report, volume II, of 2004-2005 (Régie du bâtiment du Québec)
- the annual management report 2004-2005 (Société de développement des entreprises culturelles)
- the provisioning of on-line Government services, namely chapter 3 of the Auditor General's report, volume II, of 2004-2005 (Government Services, Employment and Social Solidarity, and Services Québec)
- the annual management report 2004-2005 (International Relations)

Examination of financial commitments

Other mandates:

- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee
- Hearing of the Auditor General within the framework of the examination of his annual management report 2004-2005 and the examination of his financial commitments for the months of April 2004 to March 2005

Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Clause-by-clause consideration: 2 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2005-2006

Consultations:

- General consultation within the framework of the consideration of Bill 113, An Act to amend the Act respecting reserved designations
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 137, An Act respecting reserved designations and added-value claims

Surveillance of agencies:

- La Financière agricole du Québec

Order of initiative:

- Hear the comments and suggestions of certain agencies following the report on the issues arising with regard to food safety in Québec

Other mandate:

- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee

Committee on Social Affairs

Clause-by-clause consideration: 8 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2005-2006

Interpellations:

- The assessment of the Liberal Government's electoral commitments in health and social services two years after its election
- Québec's family policy
- Kidnappings, forcible confinements and abuses of authority towards Québec's children
- The dismantling of the educational childcare services network
- The Liberal promises as regards health

Consultations:

- General consultation within the framework of the consideration of Bill 83, An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services and other legislative provisions (continuation)
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 112, An Act to amend the Tobacco Act and other legislative provisions

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 108, An Act to amend the Act respecting parental insurance and other legislative provisions
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 124, Educational Childcare Act
- General consultation within the framework of the consideration of Bill 125, An Act to amend the Youth Protection Act and other legislative provisions
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 89, An Act respecting clinical and research activities as regards assisted human reproduction and amending other legislative provisions
- General consultation – For a New Social Contract of Equality Between Women and Men (continuation)
- General consultation – Pharmaceutical Policy

Other mandate:

- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee

Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

Clause-by-clause consideration: 3 public bills 11 private bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2005-2006

Interpellation:

- The situation of regions in Québec

Surveillance of agencies:

- Société d'habitation du Québec (continuation)

Other mandate:

- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee

Committee on Culture

Clause-by-clause consideration: 2 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2005-2006

Consultation

- General consultation within the framework of the consideration of Bill 86, An Act to amend the Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information and other legislative provisions

Orders of initiative:

- The diversity of cultural expressions
- Québec's religious heritage

Other mandates

- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee
- Election of the vice-chairman of the Committee

Committee on Education

Clause-by-clause consideration: 2 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2005-2006

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 95, An Act to amend various legislative provisions of a confessional nature in the education field

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 106, An Act to amend the Education Act and the Act respecting private education

Other mandates:

- Final report on the hearing of the executive officers of the 19 universities
- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee

Committee on Labour and the Economy

Clause-by-clause consideration: 10 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2005-2006

Interpellation:

- Québec's energy strategy

Consultations:

- General consultation – The Energy Sector in Québec – Context, Issues and Questions (continuation)
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 94, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère des Ressources naturelles, de la Faune et des Parcs and other legislative provisions
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 99, An Act to amend the Act respecting the leasing of part of the water power of the Shipshaw River
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 135, An Act to amend the Act respecting labour relations, vocational training and manpower management in the construction industry
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 122, An Act to amend the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State and other legislative provisions
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of the evaluation report of the Bureau d'évaluation médicale;
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of the 2000-2005 five-year report concerning the Act to foster the development of manpower training

Surveillance of agencies:

- Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec

Other mandate:

- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee

Committee on Public Finance

Clause-by-clause consideration: 9 public bills 2 private bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2005-2006

Interpellation:

- the budgetary policy of the Government of Québec

Consultation:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 85, An Act respecting the Centre de services partagés du Québec (modified title)

Order of initiative

- Investor protection in Québec

Other mandates

- Continuation of the debate on the Budget Speech
- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee

- Hearing of the director general of the Institut de la statistique du Québec within the framework of the examination of his annual report and of his financial statements

Committee on Institutions

Clause-by-clause consideration: 7 public bills 1 private bill

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2005-2006

Interpellation:

- The state of federal-provincial relations

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 109, Director of Public Prosecutions Act
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 103, An Act to amend the Act respecting administrative justice and other legislative provisions
- General consultation within the framework of the consideration of Bill 88, Private Security Act (continuation)
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 133, An Act to insert article 1974.1 in the Civil Code (modified title)

Other mandate

- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee

Committee on Transportation and the Environment

Clause-by-clause consideration: 4 public bills 1 private bill

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2005-2006

Interpellations:

- The Québec Government's transport policies
- Sustainable development in Québec

Consultations

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 107, An Act to amend the Environment Quality Act
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 118, Sustainable Development Act
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 129, An Act to amend the Act respecting owners and operators of heavy vehicles and other legislative provisions
- Special consultations with reference to the discussion paper on off-highway vehicles tabled by the Minister for Transport

Order of initiative:

- Road safety in Québec

Other mandate:

- Election of the chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee

Select Committee

Consultations

- Special consultations and a general consultation on the draft bill replacing the Election Act

THE ALLOWANCES GRANTED TO MEMBERS

Wage bill of members:

Regular remuneration (includes base allowance and additional allowance)	$10,988,330

Other allowances:

Allowances for expenses, attendance and political activities	$2,767,797
Transition allowances (includes allowances granted when Member leaves)	$889,714
Travel from electoral riding to the Parliament Building	$1,086,894
Lodging in or around Québec City	$1,362,517
Additional allowance for the purchase of furniture or office equipment during the first term of office	$9173
Electoral riding office operation expenses	$4,037,753

Other expenses:

	Members' staff	Office staff	Total
Wage bill	$10,764 212	$5,446,108	$16,210,320
Travel expenses	$308,428	$560,345	$868,773
Research services of political parties			$1,638,073

THE MANDATES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

The Secretary General

The Secretary General is the highest-ranking public servant of the Assembly and chief advisor to the President and the deputation in the interpretation of parliamentary procedure. The Secretary General oversees and manages the personnel of the Assembly, sees to the administration of routine business and carries out the other duties that are assigned to him by the Office of the National Assembly, of which he is the secretary.

Office Secretariat Directorate

The Office Secretariat sees to the organization and follow-up of the proceedings of the Office of the National Assembly and informs the Members concerning their working conditions and the services that are available to them.

Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate

The Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate advises the Assembly in legal matters and provides all professional services regarding the drafting of private Members' bills and private bills.

Library Directorate

The Library Directorate is responsible for the conservation of parliamentary documents and the management and retrieval of archives. It maintains a collection which corresponds to the needs of current and future users. It carries out studies and conducts research relating to the mandates of parliamentarians and administrative branches, particularly in connection with the business of parliamentary committees.

Security Directorate

The Security Directorate counsels Assembly authorities on security measures and is responsible for the protection of persons and property and for the security of buildings and offices at the Assembly.

Associate General Secretariat for Parliamentary Affairs

The General Directorate of Parliamentary Affairs coordinates, plans, and supervises the activities of the parliamentary affairs directorates and assists the Secretary General in his role of advisor to the Chair of the Assembly.

House Secretariat Directorate

The House Secretariat ensures the preparation, proper conduct and follow-up of the sittings of the Assembly. It assists the Secretary General in the preparation and coordination of the opening and closing of sessions.

Committee Secretariat Directorate

The Committee Secretariat provides all professional and support services required by parliamentary committees for the organization and conduct of their activities.

Parliamentary Procedure Research Directorate

The Parliamentary Procedure Research Directorate assists the Secretary General in advising the President, the Assembly and the parliamentary committees on parliamentary procedure matters.

Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate

The Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate is responsible for providing all professional and technical services as regards the translation, revision, editing and printing of legislative texts and for answering the translation needs of other administrative units.

General Directorate of Institutional Affairs

The General Directorate of Institutional Affairs coordinates, plans and supervises the activities of the institutional affairs directorates and assists the Secretary General in managing the institutional affairs of the Assembly.

Communications Directorate

The Communications Directorate promotes outreach by informing the public on the role of the Assembly in democracy. It is responsible for the communications of the institution and provides services to the Press Gallery.

Educational Programmes Directorate

The Educational Programmes Directorate develops, organizes and conducts educational activities for target clienteles and provides professional and technical support during parliamentary simulations.

Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate

The Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate coordinates protocol activities and ceremonies at the Assembly and is responsible for visitors and information services, as well as for guided tours.

Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate

The Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate advises Assembly authorities on interparliamentary and international relations and coordinates the activities of the Assembly in this area.

Associate General Secretariat for Administrative Affairs

The Associate General Secretariat for Administrative Affairs plans, directs, coordinates and supervises the activities of the administrative directorates. It also coordinates the deployment of information technologies at the Assembly.

Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate

The Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate is responsible for the broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings, press conferences and certain special events, and for the audio recording of debates for the purpose of transcribing, revising, editing and publishing the Journal des débats (Hansard).

Building Management Directorate

The Building Management Directorate provides all goods and services at the Assembly relating to the management and furnishing of buildings, and telecommunications.

Computer Services Directorate

The Computer Services Directorate is responsible for planning and providing advice and services in the area of office automation and computer systems (software, applications, equipment, training) and manages the computer population and the local and extended networks.

Financial Resources and Procurement Services Directorate

The Financial Resources and Procurement Services Directorate advises and provides services to the administrative units and the Members as regards financial management, budget planning and accounting operations. It also provides procurement services.

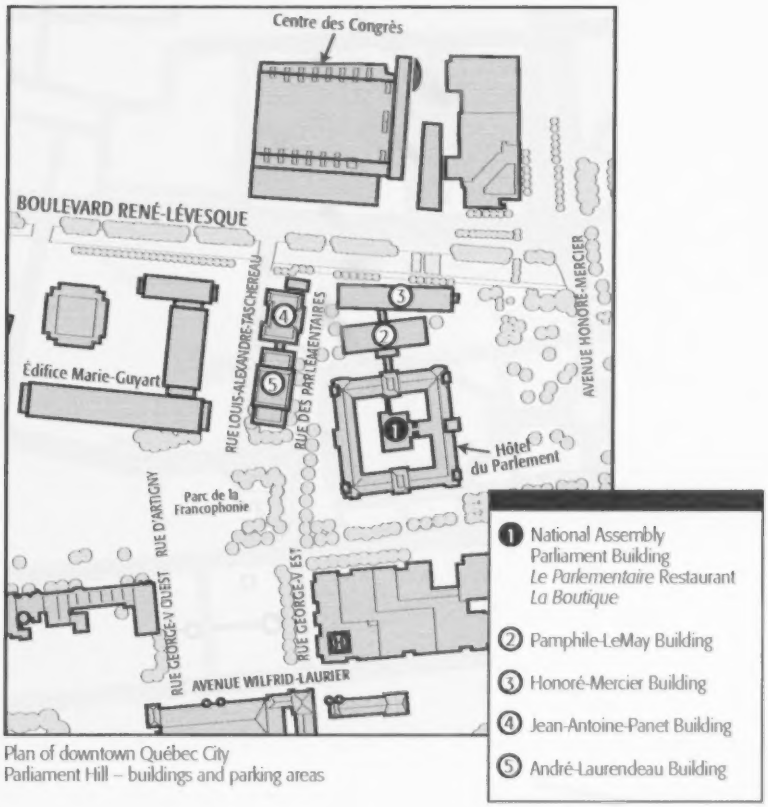
Human Resources Directorate

The Human Resources Directorate is responsible for all operations and support and counselling services relating to the management of human resources for the benefit of the administrative units and the Members.

Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate

The Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate provides support services to the Members and the administrative units, particularly as regards mail delivery and messenger services, printing, photocopying, the distribution of parliamentary documents, and office supplies. It is also responsible for food services and the management of restaurants at the Assembly.

SOME PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Plan of downtown Québec City
Parliament Hill – buildings and parking areas

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Parliament Building, Québec City (Québec)
G1A 1A3

General information
Telephone: (418) 643-7239
Toll-free number: 1 866 députés
(1 866-337-8837).
Fax: (418) 641-2638
www.assnat.qc.ca

GUIDED TOURS

Schedule*
Monday to Friday: from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
25 June to Labour Day:
Monday to Friday: from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays:
From 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Reservations are required for groups of 10 or more.

Information
Telephone: (418) 643-7239
Fax: (418) 641-2638
E-mail: accueil@assnat.qc.ca

LE PARLEMENTAIRE RESTAURANT

Opening hours*
Monday to Friday: from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Reservations
Telephone: (418) 643-6640
Fax: (418) 643-6378
E-mail: resto@assnat.qc.ca

LA BOUTIQUE

Opening hours*
Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
24 June to Labour Day:
Also open on weekends from 10:00 a.m.
to 5:00 p.m.

Information
Telephone: (418) 643-8785
Fax: (418) 528-6022
E-mail: laboutique@assnat.qc.ca

* May be changed without notice

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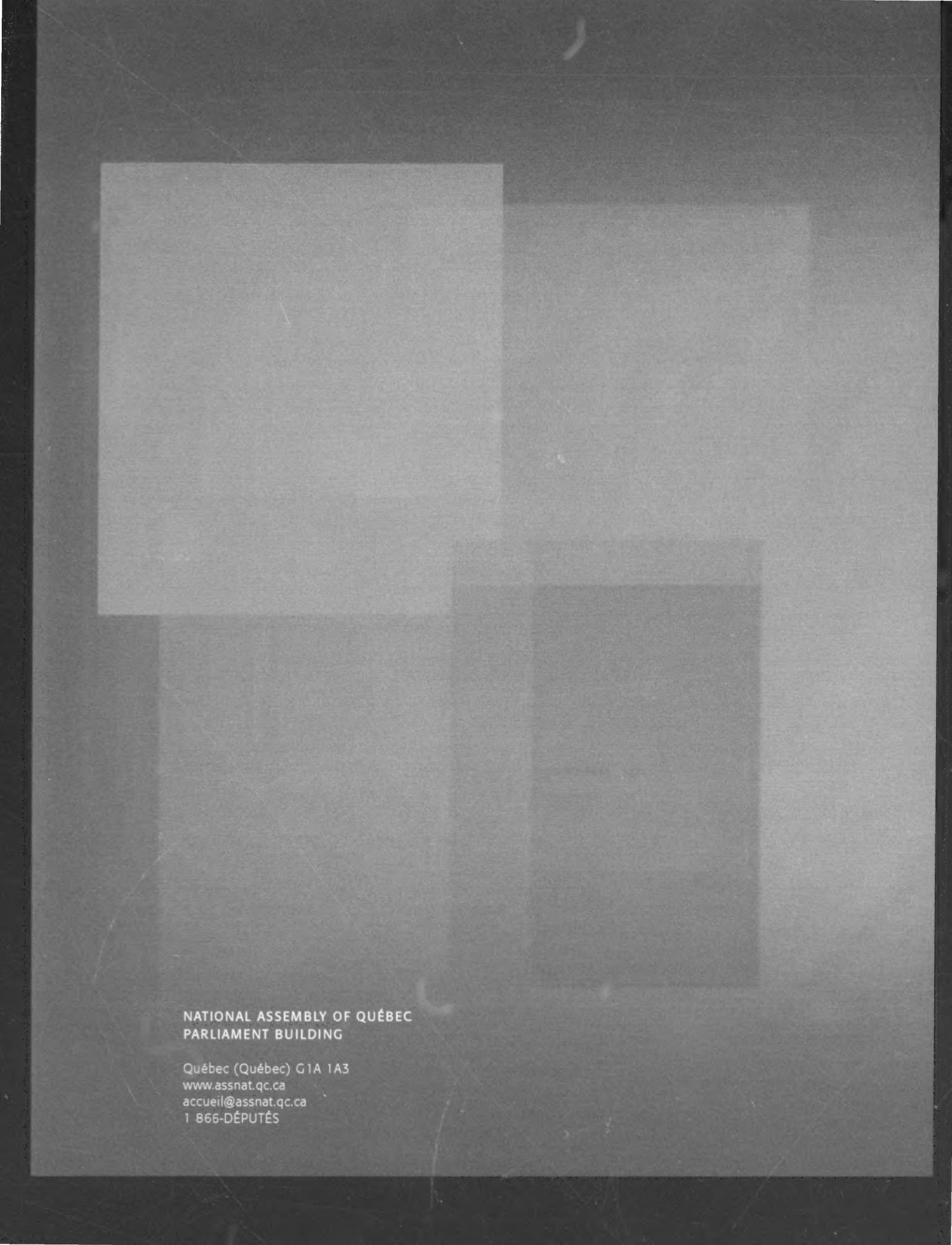

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC
PARLIAMENT BUILDING

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